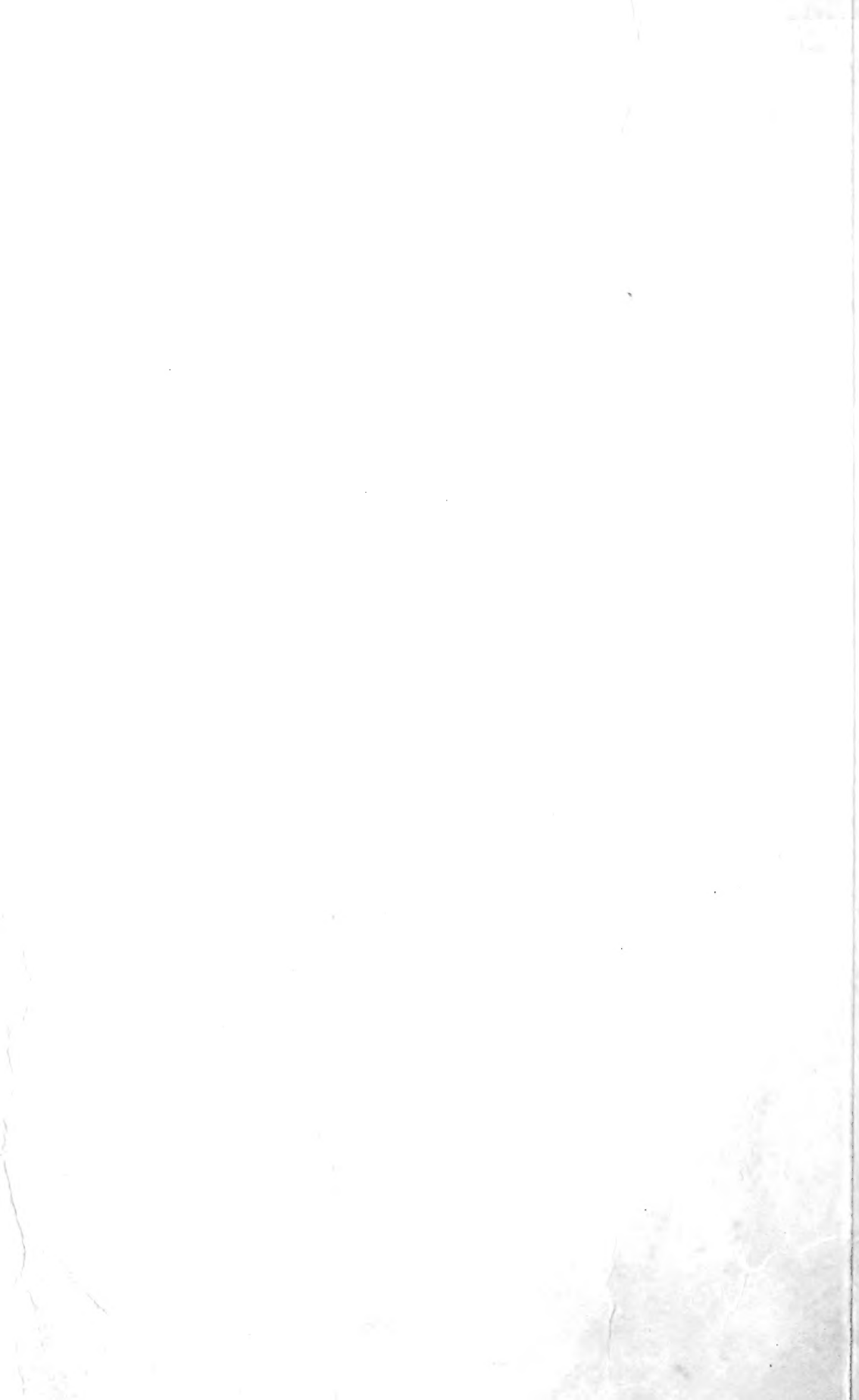


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THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF GRAPE CULTURE IN GARDEN AND VINEYARD.

THE IONA AND ISRAELLA GRAPES.

Iona, October 17, 1865.

Two years ago, I first had the pleasure of putting the Iona and Israella Grapes before the public for sale, and those who bought vines then, did so chiefly from my own representations of the excellence of these kinds as fruits, and of their earliness in ripening, as well as of the hardiness and general good habits of the vines. It is true I did not offer them to the public until their character had been thoroughly tested, not merely in my own grounds, and in those of my neighbors, but also in widely different latitudes and localities in many different States.

But during these two years, the former of which was very favorable, and the latter very unfavorable for the vine, the Iona especially has been very extensively disseminated throughout all the accessible vine-growing regions of our country. A vast amount of additional experience has accumulated in regard to these vines, by which, in an extended view, investigators can satisfactorily ascertain their value in every respect in comparison with all other varieties, and it is time now to ask: Have the representations then made, and which appeared so extravagant, been fully justified by experience? Did these representations in any particular surpass, or did they fall short of setting forth the full merits of these kinds?

Let us glance at their history during these two years.

Many thousands of plants were then sold, and not one purchaser has expressed regret for having bought, but, on the contrary, there has been a general expression of regret for having bought so few, and thousands are expressing regret for having lost so much time before obtaining any.

Last season I was able, by pretty extensive dissemination of specimens of the fruit of the Iona, to have its quality tested by many hundreds of those who were able to appreciate high excellence of quality. Through these individuals, and by the voice of various Committees, the reputation of the Iona, especially, became well known, and its value so well established in public estimation, that the number of first-class vines was not sufficient to supply the demand.

Prize of One Hundred Dollars offered by Mr. Greeley, for testing the claims of the different Grapes, by a capable Committee.

One of the events by which its surpassing merits were most clearly exhibited, was its subjection to the severest possible test before the Committee for the award of the Greeley prize of One Hundred Dollars.

The requirements by the terms of Mr. Greeley's offer were not merely that the successful competitor should be better than any other Native grape, but that it should possess the qualities which constitute the distinctive excellence of the best European kinds, "in pure, rich, vinous, and exhilarating flavor, with flesh melting, tender and sweet, quite to the center;" while the habit of the vine was to be vigorous and of the most healthy, hardy, and productive character. "In short," (says Mr. Greeley,) "what is sought is a vine which embodies the best qualities of both the most approved American and foreign varieties as far as possible."

I had claimed these high qualities for the Iona. Others also had claimed great excellence for different varieties.

Mr. Greeley says, in propounding the premium, (September, 1864:) "It is time these claims were tested, and passed upon by disinterested and capable judges." "As an humble contribution to this end, I hereby offer a premium of One Hundred Dollars," to be awarded by Committee of American Institute.

The Committee in giving their decision at the conclusion of their interesting report on the subject, say: "*The Iona is the only grape that meets the requirements of the Greeley prize, and we accordingly award it.*"

The Committee consisted of Mr. Peter B. Mead, Mr. R. G. Pardee, and Mr. Francis Brill. No one who is acquainted with these gentlemen, or has read their statement, will affirm that a Committee more capable or better qualified for the purpose has ever presented a report upon grapes. It may be added, never was a decision more fully justified by farther experience.

The notice given necessarily allowed but a short time to competitors for preparation. Some of the friends of a celebrated variety strenuously asserted the belief that their favorite could have taken the prize if sufficient notice for preparation had

been given. I at once reopened the case in favor of that especially, or any better grape that should be offered during the current season, or for a whole year. No successful competitor has appeared, and the prize remains with the Iona.

I again open the case for competition, on the same terms as before, for any time within three years.

Adverse interests have been most fruitlessly active in seeking for causes to invalidate any of my claims of excellence for these varieties. Questions as to their earliness and hardiness were raised, but settled in a way not to permit of their being again excited—at least in the same manner.

The Reputation of the Iona now stands upon the concurrent opinions of the most capable Committees, and the cultivated taste of the People.

The reputation of the Iona does not now stand upon any opinion that its originator, or any other person, may advance concerning it; for the most extensive and thorough trials possible of its merits have always been earnestly sought, and have already been so extensively obtained through dissemination of the vines and fruit, that the jurisdiction of the case is now passing, or, rather, has passed—as the season is at its close—from the judgment of eminent individuals, and distinguished particular committees, to the great general committee of all those interested in good grapes: for the number of tastes sufficiently educated to judge has become so great, and is so rapidly increasing, according to opportunities afforded, that the people will be their own infallible judges hereafter as to the quality of grapes. The Delaware and Iona, more especially the latter, are speedy and effectual cultivators of taste.

Reports of Committees.

But the committees of this season have done a very important work, and have done it well. A full account of the awards that have been made, with a statement of the interest that has surrounded the new grapes at all of the numerous exhibitions, would be very interesting; but I have room here for only a few short extracts, which are given to show that now the quality and excellence of true grapes is understood and appreciated, and that committees have exercised their discrimination to show intelligibly the grounds upon which their decisions are based. I make one extract from report of St. Louis (Mo.) Horticultural Society, of which Mr. J. H. Tice was Chairman:

"The Committee beg leave to report that they found the Iona a most luscious grape, almost pulpless, of a rich, vinous flavor, and differing from all other grapes in being sweet to the center, and without any acerbity or foxiness. The pulp, if so it may be called, [flesh,] has so little tenacity that the least pressure in crushing ejects the seed. Your Committee have no hesitation in placing this grape at the head of all native kinds, even above the Delaware. Your Committee and the members of the Society were very fortunate in having fine large bunches of Delawares, delicious in flavor, to compare with the Iona, and between these acknowledged competitors for precedence we believe the judgment of the members, as well as that of the Committee, to have been unequivocally in favor of the IONA."

The foregoing extract is from a good report, all of which is interesting and valuable, but the two following extracts from private letters will afford a more extended analysis of the Iona, and a more striking picture to some perceptions:

From Mr. Hough, Philadelphia.

"I have never been much of a native grape-eater. The Isabella I found spiritless, with too much of the offensiveness of the fox; and the Concord and H. Prolific were to me intolerable, the stench after handling them adhering to my fingers for a long time. Their odor in a close room was sickening. The Catawba was better, but objectionable from its slight foxiness, considerable astringency, and large, unripe acid center. The Grizzly Frontignan, one of the best foreign kinds, I had found unexceptionably excellent, and altogether delightful, but so unlike the natives just named, as not to be brought into comparison with them. I was induced to try the Delaware, and found it spirited, very rich and pure, with something of the refreshment of wine. I had heard the Iona praised and dispraised, and tried the grapes very reluctantly. On trying them late in August, the first impression was that of From-

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signans, scarcely ripe. On eating a few more, their animating and refreshing spirit became prominent. The next day I procured some of the Frontignans; they were very sweet, but lacking in spirit as never before. After eating a few, and then recurring to the Iona, that was ever more spirited than the day before, with a distinct sugary spiciness that had not before been perceptible. Finished the bunch, and recurred to the Frontignans, which then appeared too spiritless to afford their usual enjoyment after eating the more spirited Ionas.

"One week later, (September fourth,) some more Ionas gave me a new sensation. The exhilaration from their spicy, animating spirit was remarkable, leaving the gentlest possible sensation of wine in my mouth, with a degree of thrilling refreshment that I had never before experienced from fruit. I then began to perceive the fine Muscatelle aroma, and also the exceeding richness of the juice in sugar. The fine, tender, uniform texture of the flesh, just sufficient to hold the mass together to yield its excellence to the gentlest pressure of the tongue, the goodness of the skin, and the purity of the whole, in connection with the general spirit, combine to render it a marvelous fruit. What I formerly thought exaggerated praise, on your part, now appears to fall far below the reality. It grows daily upon my liking, and I now perceive that no perception can at first realize its full excellence. You are right when you say: 'It would be difficult to tell what modification or addition would make it better.' I can heartily say to all, the Iona has not been yet sufficiently praised to fairly represent its merits."

This extract is offered as one of the best and most truthful pictures of the Iona that have been given.

A short extract from the Rev. Mr. Bullard, appended to the above, and the two sketches, make a fair representation of our native grapes:

"When I hear a man recommending the Concord or Hartford Prolific, I do not question his honesty, but I do his perceptions in regard to any fruit. There are those to whom one apple is as good as another, to whom the largest cherry or strawberry is the best, and who can not for their life tell the characteristic excellence of any pear that grows, and whose likes in any fruit are generally based upon what is a defect to a true perception; and these are the persons that honestly recommend the nauseating, unwholesome, foxy grapes, for their very defects. They can perceive the *goodness* of tobacco, which I can not. They can not perceive the true excellence of fruit flavor in its exhilarating purity and delicacy, and are to be pitied rather than blamed because they are cut off from the rich and pure enjoyment of the most refined, but they should learn to not attempt to deprive others of it who are more happily constituted."

Eminent Qualifications of the Judges.

It will be interesting to consider the character and qualifications of the judges who have awarded the premiums. At Columbus, Ohio, where the Iona and Israella were commended as the best grapes of recent introduction, were M. B. Bateham, J. E. Mottier, (chief in vineyards and wine,) J. R. Miller, Geo. Powers, Wm. H. Smith.

At the Fair of the Indiana Horticultural Society, the Committee of which unanimously awarded the premium, for the best variety of new native grapes, to the IONA, consisted of Dr. Warder, chairman, with whom were associated J. J. Thomas, author of *American Fruit Book*, and Thomas Meehan, editor of *Gardner's Monthly*. At the latter places named they were equally distinguished.

The Cincinnati Horticultural Society awarded first premium to IONA.

Pennsylvania State Fair awarded first premium to IONA.

At Michigan State Fair, the Iona and Israella also received a first premium in connection with others.

At the great exhibition of grapes at Sandusky, where it came in competition with all of the best grapes grown at Kelly's Island, and the whole south shore of Lake Erie, which is the paradise of the Catawba, first premium to Iona "for twelve bunches best variety, *quality* to rule." A friend writes: "Here the tasting was done by thousands, and the most inveterate prejudice was always, on trial, compelled to yield to the Iona—it has carried all the people as well as committees with it."

At Utica, N. Y., alone, it was placed second to Delaware. Of its success at New-England Fair, Wisconsin, Iowa, New-Jersey, Vermont, Rhode-Island, etc., there is not space to speak.

The concurring opinions of the select committees of so many widely different localities, are fully convincing as to the very great superiority of the Iona to all others. But this season has afforded demonstration which carries irresistible weight, because it is the voice of the now educated taste of the public, which is in full harmony with the decisions of the eminent judges who have so generally constituted the committees the present season.

Many thousands of those deeply interested in grapes, of discriminating judgment, conscious of the vast interest that centers in the Iona, have tested its merits by careful immediate comparison with the best of all other kinds, and the award of this vast committee is so unanimous, that even strong interests as well as inveterate predilection have been compelled to yield to the Iona supremacy over all others, including the Delaware, which was its only near competitor when at actual trial. The friends of the Catawba, (at Sandusky, especially, its most palmy region,) having long enjoyed its richness and animating vinous spirit, and become accustomed to excuse its defects, were often confident of its equality before trial, but always yielded gracefully at testing. The Iona, being much more spirited and animating, as well as sugary, and consisting of *pure wine quite to the center*, without foxiness or astringency, at once elevated the tastes to a higher standard, and made the defects of the Catawba clearly apparent.

The veteran Mottier, with his just perception of the excellence of the heretofore unequalled Delaware, is compelled to concede the superiority of the Iona in quality, as well as in other important points. His vineyard is now chiefly of Delaware, with which he is well satisfied; but he declares he shall henceforth plant chiefly and largely of IONA, of which he last season planted a small vineyard.

Important Points of the Iona stated and illustrated, by extracts from Mr. Downing and Mr. Marié.

The earliness, hardness, and productiveness of the Iona, are points of prime importance, which the present most trying season has done more to settle satisfactorily than the whole seven preceding seasons of its fruiting, six of which have not been favorable to grapes, in all of which the Iona has manifested a degree of certainty and perfection of ripening its abundant crops, unequaled by any other grape. Hardness and constancy of production in a high degree have generally been conceded to the Concord, but in numerous and extensive districts where that has failed partially or entirely from rot, the Iona has not only been unaffected by it but has maintained an increase of excellence and earliness in ripening, according to its advance in age, which is characteristic of it, and also great superiority in the hardness of its foliage. For several years, as the vines gain in maturity, the period of ripening advances nearly a week yearly, while at the same rate, the quality of the fruit improves in spirit and richness. The best Iona vines in the country have not yet reached their highest point of excellence.

I will illustrate by two distinguished examples. The first extract is from Mr. CHARLES DOWNING:

"The past two seasons the Iona, being the first years of fruiting with me, ripened a little later than the Delaware, but this season a week earlier. . . The Israella ripened as early as the Hartford Prolific, or before it, beginning to color about one week earlier. Both Iona and Israella have so far proved hardy and vigorous, and their foliage has been much less injured by mildew than that of DELAWARE, CONCORD, AND MOST OTHER KINDS."

Hardiness of the Iona, and its value as a Table Grape, by Mr. Marié.

From Mr. MARIE, a most intelligent amateur, and a distinguished cultivator of foreign and native grapes:

"The Delaware, my great favorite, which has not suffered before, will fall to ripen one third of its crop from loss of leaves. Catawbas entirely gone. Concord, very much injured in the fruit—not nearly half a crop. Allen's Hybrid has done very well, giving most excellent fruit. H. Prolific is one of those that have suffered least.

"Now last, but not least, the Iona has gone through this most trying season triumphantly, mildewing very little, if at all, more than the Hartford Prolific; and at the present time, I have a trellis seventy-five feet long by eight feet high, covered with

plenty of large and full, ripe bunches, which, to my taste, are the best-flavored native grapes that I have eaten. This fully meets my requirements for a perfect grape. Allow me to congratulate you upon the success of the Iona. I shall plant nothing else in the ground that I am now preparing—certainly not until we get something far better than is now before the public.

"The advance of the time of ripening with the advance of age and maturity of the Iona vines, is a fact that should be noted. Each year has made a difference of more than a week, or perhaps two weeks, with mine. Yours, very truly,

"C. MARIE."

Claims for the Excellence of the Iona all sustained, and more.

I think all must admit from the evidence before us, which amounts to clear demonstration, that the claims put forth for the Iona, from the beginning, have not only been borne out in every particular, but that it has surpassed my statements of its value. It has fully equaled, but scarcely surpassed my *hopes*, for it has improved yearly, as was to be expected, and will continue to improve in quality and earliness in due course for several years to come, as the vines approach maturity.

When I represented it to be as good as the Delaware, and to ripen as early, my statement, to many who knew the exceeding goodness and earliness of that variety, appeared to be an impossibility. "A large grape as good as the Delaware was inconceivable," said one of the best judges of grapes. That it is *better* than the Delaware, besides being a large grape, is now the general voice, and that against preconceived opinion.

From knowledge of grapes, through long experience and extensive observation, I fully believed, when first offering the vines, that such would be the case, yet it was only *safe* to describe according to the development at the time. I did not fail to express my confident expectations to my friends, that it would take the position now accorded to it above the Delaware.

The Iona has so far distanced all other kinds that no comparison of *quality* is now made with it, except by the Delaware, and the Diana and Catawba, in particular districts, of which North-East and Sandusky are the centers.

Address of Mr. Griffith.

The following extract, from an address by Mr. William Griffith, "President of the Grape and Wine Association of North-East, Pennsylvania, delivered October 11th, is characteristic and to the point:

"It has been justly stated by Dr. C. W. Grant that 'we are at the beginning of a new era in grape culture in this country, and the interests involved are not only of incalculable importance, but concern every individual.

"France is now fitly characterized as the 'country of the vine,' but the present indications are so clear and positive, that we are not permitted to doubt that the events are now in progress that will soon make this country its equal in the products of the vine, both for wine and for the fruit, through our own *native kinds*."

"This we see now in rapid verification in our midst, and throughout an extensive region of which we are the center. Through the modifying influence of the lake, we have an unequaled climate, and from the hands of nature a soil admirably fitted for the purpose, and ready to receive the vines with but little cost for preparations. We have extensive Catawba vineyards now full laden with grapes, which are good for the table and for wine; but it is not a perfect grape, having a little of the roughness and impurity of the fox, and something of unripe acidity at the center. We have on the table before us, samples of Diana and Delaware grapes, which are more pure and rich in flavor, and which make most excellent wine. But *above all is the Iona*, a seedling produced by great care and expense, but of value inestimable. It has been described to us by its originator in words the best calculated to set forth its characteristics of beauty and excellence which the language affords. But a grape like the Iona, of which all the flesh with the skin is good to eat, and from which the seeds can be rejected without inconvenience, as in the foreign kinds, and of uniform goodness throughout, and so tender, that, under a slight pressure of the tongue, the flesh all melts to pure, rich exhilarating juice that is almost wine, needs new words and ideas for the full statement or understanding, by description, of its excellence and value. The finest taste needs some cultivation or familiarity with it to perceive the full

degree of its excellence. I must concur with the originator, who, after carefully scanning the character of the vine and the quality of the fruit, said: 'I know not in what respect I could ask to have it modified to make it better.' Nothing but the Grape itself, which we have here before us, can fully represent its beauty and goodness."

Mr. Griffith, after one year's experience with two thousand, orders ten thousand.

Mr. Griffith has shown the sincerity of his convictions with regard to the Iona, after having had experience with two thousand of them which he planted last season, by ordering ten thousand of the plants for this fall.

The Iona able to make America the Country of the Vine.

From the foregoing survey, which touches but few of the important points, it will be clearly seen that we have, in the Iona, a grape not only that stands out above all others, but one that is able to make ours a country of the vine in the most extensive and excellent sense of the term, for the Iona is equally eminent for the table and for wine; and for keeping through Winter, in full spirit and flavor, it is also unequaled. Like the most celebrated Pineau of France, it is suited for any latitude in which any good grapes will thrive, but unlike the Pineau, which is black and small, and consequently lacking in beauty for the table. The table-grape of France (Chasselas of Fontainebleau) is of exceeding beauty, but only of second quality, having sweetness but almost entirely wanting in the refreshing and restorative power which is the highest excellence of grapes, in which our own production is unequaled. This has been strikingly exemplified in cases of sickness where no foreign grapes, nor even the Delaware, could be eaten, while the Iona were gratefully stomachic, exhilarating, and restorative.

Both of these kinds have heretofore been planted in vineyards more extensively for table fruit than for wine. The price of these grapes for the table, for many years to come, will not be less than fifty cents a pound. At that price, it is not supposable that many will be made into wine. The Israelita will make good wine, like Mottier's Cape, (from York Madeira), which brings a high price. The Iona, in fine purity and concentrated richness of flavor, equals the Delaware, but surpasses it in the animating spirit which will give to its wine the greatest restorative powers, even above that from the Diana, which is one of the most precious characteristics of wine. This constitutes the distinctive excellence of the Johannisberg, the best wine of Europe.

The Delaware and Iona grapes each yield about equal proportions of juice to the weight of fruit. Twelve pounds of Catawba grapes are required to make a gallon of wine; but only ten or ten and a half pounds of the Delaware or Iona are required for the same quantity. These two kinds are about equally rich in sugar, both being of the highest grade and surpassing the Catawba. The Iona is richest of all in Tartaric acid, with a just proportion of the Tannic in which the Catawba has an excess that renders both fruit and wine rough and astringent.

The Catawba, in its best condition, besides its foxiness, and astringency from excess of tannic acid, has also a considerable portion of fibrous unripeness at the center, which is swallowed quickly in a mass, to avoid tasting the harsh acid.

This can not be avoided in pressing for wine, although greatly detrimental to it even when most nearly ripened in a climate sufficiently warm; but in a climate less favorable, it is fatal to the production of *pure*, generous wine. Hence the acetous, spirituous, or syrupy character of a large part of that which is offered for sale as "wine from pure juice of the grape." The tendency to the formation of vinegar can only be averted in such cases by the addition of sugar or spirits.

The Delaware and Iona, especially the latter, without these defects.

The advantage of the Delaware and Iona, the former of which has little, and the latter none of this imperfection of unripeness at the center, is so great as to scarcely admit of calculation. Beside this, each of these two kinds has principles of richness and excellence, some in common to the two, and some peculiar to each, as has been noted in the critical descriptions of them, by which they surpass all other grapes for the table and for wine. A further and indispensable condition to their value over an extended and most important region of country is their earliness in ripening, by which they are in advance of

the Catawba more than three weeks or nearly four. The superiority of the Iona to the Delaware in the possession of a just proportion of Tannic acid, is very important, enabling it to make a "firm and enduring wine," with much less of "heaviness" or alcoholic strength than can be done with the Delaware. The peculiar advantages of the Iona, in the hardness of its foliage, and constancy of its crops, have been already noted.

The Excellence of the New Grapes a sure foundation for success. Vine-Culture must be regarded from a new stand-point.

These are the foundations by which ours is surely and safely, as well as rapidly becoming a country of pure rich grapes and *real wine* in its excellence. This is most clearly perceived by such skillful vineyardists as Mottier and Griffith, who have always been attentive observers, and are now fully conscious of the great advantage of early beginning in the good work. The former saw the advantages of the Delaware over the Catawba while his neighbors were unbelieving, and in consequence of adopting it early, had large crops of grapes where others had small, and received a *price more than three times greater per gallon* for his large yield than others did for theirs small as well as inferior. I may claim a favorable recognition from him for having directed his attention to the right object in case both of the Delaware and of the Iona.

There are several features of our present situation that greatly favor us in our rapid progress in becoming a grape and wine-producing people besides that most important one of our being in the possession of the best of grapes. Those who are foremost with the Iona and Israella are men long trained to habits of caution and accurate observation; and those who have already planted the largest vineyards, as well as those who are preparing to plant largely, are not only men of the above character, but many of them are those that have had the most extensive acquaintance with grapes for the table and for wine, and also with wine-making, and have been eminently successful under far less favorable conditions than the present.

These have accepted the new grapes with the knowledge of their value, and have already shaped their course in regard to them so far as the supply of vines has permitted, and some of the most distinguished have made very extensive arrangements for planting the Iona *chiefly or exclusively*.

Numerous vineyards, consisting of from five hundred to upward of two thousand vines each, have been planted in widely separated districts, in all of which the work is done in the best manner, and uniformly with corresponding satisfactory results. A much greater number of persons have planted vines in numbers varying from fifty to two hundred each. These have not only learned what true grapes are, but have also learned how to treat them, and take pleasure in having their wants in training and cultivation supplied. There is a vastly greater number who have planted dozens and twenty-fives for family supply, the most of which will be properly treated, and from very many of which specimens of the fruit have already been produced, to the great satisfaction and delight of the owners.

All of these are centers from which knowledge of the excellence and value of the grapes will radiate, and a strong point of interest in regard to them at present is, that *all* who have planted to any extent are preparing to increase the number, and generally very greatly, as the preparation of ground and other circumstances will permit.

There is one circumstance that will secure good treatment in the hands of the judicious, to every Iona and Israella vine for many years to come. The wood for propagation of both these kinds is so valuable, and in such demand by propagators, that the eyes from the growth of the first year even are now selling for nearly the cost of the vines, and in some instances for much more. The produce of the wood alone from first class vines, well treated, the second year and onward, for many years will afford much more profit, without interfering with the production of fruit, than can be had from the fruit of any other kind, so that for the cuttings alone these would be very profitable. What has been said of the Iona, with little modification, will apply to the Israella.

The Profits of Grape Culture.

This is a subject so extensive as to require a treatise for its full discussion; but it may be very fairly exemplified by a short account of the condition of grape culture at Kelly's Is-

land. For agricultural purposes the land did not bear a high value; but for grapes it has risen to the enormous price of from seven to twelve hundred dollars per acre. It is a rare chance to get any of the best for the latter price. The Catawba has heretofore been the principal variety, and the grapes have been used for wine and for the table. For the latter disposition the best profits have been realized, when its bunches have been uniformly large and handsome; and the crops of two seasons have been expected to pay for land, preparation, cost of vines, and cultivation. Eight hundred dollars a year is regarded as a moderate return for the best-attended vineyards.

The Catawba is a southern grape, and can not endure the severity of sudden changes without suffering from rot; but under the modifying influence of the lake at Kelly's Island, and all along the southern shore, it is measurably exempt from that scourge. The Iona, in addition to its other surpassing qualities, has been uniformly constant in its production, where the Catawba has constantly suffered extensive, or, in seasons like the past, entire loss of crop.

Now compare the singularly uniform constancy of the Iona, in its product throughout the whole vast region to which it has been found to be adapted, with the uncertainty, or rather almost uniform failure of the Catawba, in all except its very restricted and exceptional districts; and then compare the quality of the Catawba in its best exceptional condition, where its inherent astringency, foxiness, and acid unripe center never leave it, with the faultless general excellence of the Iona, and the case will be pretty fairly stated. That is to say in direct terms; that the Iona, by its adaptation to general cultivation, and by its earliness, will produce as large crops *constantly* throughout a very extended region on cheap lands, as the Catawba does in favorable seasons in its very restricted locality, on land that is extremely dear; while the fruit of the Iona, from its excellence, will bring two or three times as much price as the Catawba, both for the table and for wine.

The principal point of immediate interest is for the Family.

There are no parents that have seen and tasted the beautiful and excellent foreign grapes which a well-managed vineyard affords for three months, that have not desired just such for their family. The Iona offers to every family having command of a place for planting, as good results (and even more enjoyment, and for a longer period) from twenty-five Iona vines properly managed in open ground, as can be obtained from the same number of foreign vines in a well-managed vineyard. I illustrate by a short extract from Mr. Thomas Mehan, Editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*. No better representative of the class of highly cultivated and refined tastes can be found, having, by education and profession, a strong predilection for the foreign kinds. "To say that the samples were *delicious*, is but to express the flavor of these berries. We have a weakness for the flavor of the foreign grape, but should hesitate now whether to prefer a Muscat of Alexandria or this. . . . We have never had any doubt as to the flavor of this grape. . . . *There need be but one opinion about its being the best grape ever known here.*" The Grizzly Frontignan is the best and most beautiful of grapes for the cold vinery, but in the hot-house Muscat of Alexandria is prince over all foreigners in flavor.

Liability to Discouragements incident to the present condition.

The reputation of the Iona and Israella, and the demand for plants will induce "excessive propagation." That is, every piece of wood, and especially green wood, that can be forced into life, and then into the size of a plant by excessive enrichment, will be brought before the public for sale, affording a great inducement of cheapness which will end in dearth, and often in some degree of general discouragement. Again, the best of plants will sometimes be made tender and suffer premature loss of leaves through too generous treatment, by excessive enrichment for the purpose of obtaining abundance of wood and early productiveness. When "three hundred feet of canes are obtained" where only thirty should be, such *distended* growth will not afford enduring leaves or hardy wood.

[Those who follow the directions which I have given in the *Manual of the Vine*, will meet with no disappointment. They have been followed by thousands for many years with uniform success.]

GRAPE-VINES.

DESCRIPTION of STOCK of VINES FOR SALE at IONA ISLAND

With some Account of our Four Best Hardy Kinds.

August 20th. 1864.

My stock, this season, is very large, comprising all of the valuable hardy varieties, and has been produced with the great care and attention that long experience has shown to be required to produce the best results for those purchasing to plant.

Of the Iona and Israella, Delaware and Diana, I can furnish plants specially grown for vineyard planting, as well as those specially prepared for the garden, and for training on buildings.

The very great superiority that my vines have uniformly maintained throughout the country during the past seven years, and the excellence of my present stock, warrant the full belief that I can, as heretofore, furnish not only the best, but the cheapest vines for every purpose in planting, that can be obtained, for a full account of which, see *Descriptive Catalogue*.

The introduction of the Delaware vine was an event of the greatest importance in American Grape Culture, giving us a most hardy and enduring vine, so greatly superior to all others then in cultivation, both for the table and for wine, that in consequence, the subject of grape culture has deservedly become of the highest importance in public estimation, enabling the grape to rank as the best and most valuable of fruits.

It was well remarked by Mr. Peter B. Mead, who is second to none in this country in accurate and extensive knowledge of all that pertains to the grape, that "the Delaware not only combined in itself all of the characteristics of habit and quality requisite to constitute it a grape of the highest character, such as had not before been known in this country; but that, by its pure, rich, spirited flavor, it was admirably fitted to educate the American taste to the true idea of the excellence of grapes."

From the extensive dissemination of the Delaware, the American taste has already, to a great extent, become educated, and ready to appreciate and accept those kinds only that are capable of

yielding the highest degree of refreshing enjoyment.

The Delaware is now too well known to require an extended description as a table grape; as a wine grape, for quality, productiveness, and hardiness, it has no superior in any country, and no equal in this. The wine from the Catawba has hitherto been our best, and it may be said our only wine in market that has deserved the name, and has by its excellence commanded a high price; but the wine from the Delaware readily brings three times the price of the Catawba, both being produced by the same most distinguished vineyardist.

Allen's Hybrid fulfills all requirements for the garden, as a table grape, for which it possesses a good degree of hardiness and constancy of production, and is our best white grape. It has all of the excellence of the famous Golden Chasselas, being sweet, rich, and more spirited; tender quite to the center, and without any of the offensiveness that has detracted so largely from our natives, as represented by the Isabella and Catawba, or by the still lower and more objectionable Concord and Hartford Prolific. It is very early in ripening, much before the Concord, and is a very early and abundant bearer, becoming better constantly, as the wood from which it is propagated becomes more matured and perfect.

The characteristics that constitute the peculiar and high excellence of the Diana may be found fully stated in my *Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogues*, showing how it merits a high rank for garden and vineyard, and the peculiarity of treatment required.

It has been my very good fortune to have been much more largely and intimately concerned than any other in the dissemination of the above-named vines, with the knowledge of their qualities and proper mode of treatment; but I have the higher good fortune to be able to offer to the public two seedling grapes of my own, which,

without any defect, combine much more of excellence than any hardy grape in cultivation; being both of large size in bunch and berry, of the most hardy, close, and productive habit, and able to fully satisfy the most highly cultivated taste, that has been habituated to the use of Allen's Hybrid, Delaware, Grizzly Frontignan, and the other best foreign kinds, in their highest condition.

They are—First, the *Iona*, large or very large in bunch, and berries sufficiently compact to form a heavy bunch, without the excessive crowding that impedes ripening, with that extreme degree of beauty in color and transparency that has belonged hitherto only to the Grizzly Frontignan. Like this most estimable foreign variety, it is pure, rich, and spirited in flavor, and of uniform tenderness and sweetness quite to the center. Its time of ripening is very early, and about the same as that of the Delaware, beginning to be good about the middle of August. It is in perfection three weeks before the Catawba and Isabella, and two weeks earlier than the Concord. When I speak of the time of ripening of the Delaware, it should be borne in mind that mature vines in favorable conditions are intended. The Delaware is often not early from immature, or badly treated, or imperfect vines; but, under favorable circumstances, compared with the Hartford Prolific, it is a better grape to eat at any given time than that, whose chief claim upon attention is earliness.

It is now on its seventh year of fruiting, in different localities, and has, during all of that time, exhibited a degree of constancy and abundance in production, and of perfection in ripening, that belongs only to its companion, the *Israella*, and to the Delaware under favorable circumstances. It would be difficult to say in what respect it could be changed to make it better.

Second, the *Israella*. This is of large size in bunch, the berries very dark or black, very sweet, spirited, rich, and pure in flavor, ripening quite to the center; its flesh becoming quite tender and sweet throughout.

Its time of ripening is earliest of all—before even the Hartford Prolific. Its berries adhere firmly to the bunch, never dropping, and it is one of the best of keepers, or, if wished, dries readily to raisins.

This is the sixth year of its fruiting, five of which have been the most trying to grapes that have been known in succession, and through all of them it has maintained an increasing degree of excellence, both in my own hands and uniformly

in the hands of those to whom I have committed it for trial.

In foliage these two kinds are somewhat alike, and thoroughly native in their habit. Both are vigorous and very compact, or short-jointed, with abundant foliage, that has been constantly the most healthy and exempt from mildew of any of the great number of kinds that I have cultivated.

The *Israella* is also native in the form of its bunch, and, like the Delaware and Diana, begins to ripen near the skin, and finishes by ripening to the center.

The *Iona* is altogether like the foreign kinds in the form of its bunch, and hardly distinguishable from the Grizzly Frontignan in its most beautiful appearance, and ripens as soon at the center as circumference.

Neither rot nor mildew has appeared upon either. While I write, August twentieth, the *Israella* is intensely black, and may be said to be fully ripe for market; and the *Iona* is beautifully colored, and so good that it is uniformly pronounced most excellent by the numbers who have tasted it. I do not offer these to the public "for trial," but after extensive trial I am able to speak safely of their merits, and to show abundant proof of it. They have also shown the same uniform results in other hands to whom I have committed them for trial, as in my own. I therefore offer them with full knowledge of their character and qualities, and of what they will do in garden and vineyard.

The Distinctive Advantages of the *Israella*.

The advantages which the *Israella* possesses over all the other dark or black kinds, are:

1st. Its extreme earliness, in which it is unequalled by any good grape, and exceeds the Hartford Prolific by more than one week, and Creveling and Concord more than two weeks.

2d. The hardiness, health, and endurance of the foliage, which have enabled it to ripen its abundant crops with an unfailing constancy, equaled only by its companion, the *Iona*, which it exceeds in earliness of ripening by more than one week.

3d. Although ripening so extremely early, it has a long season on the vines, hanging firmly attached to the bunches until cold weather, and keeping well in winter, maintaining the beauty of the bunches, and the spirit and flavor of the fruit.

4th. The firm attachment of the berries to the bunches after picking, which enables it to bear

carriage well, and maintain a good marketable condition.

5th. The fruit is not injured, and the berries are not loosened from the bunches, by the frosts of autumn, which so often greatly damage or ruin the other black kinds.

6th. The excellence of the quality of the fruit, which, like the foreign kinds, becomes tender quite to the center, and unexceptionable in its exceedingly sweet, rich, and spirited flavor. It has been not inappropriately called American Ham-burgh by those intimately acquainted with both, and was designated as such by the Brooklyn Horticultural Society.

Its merits may be briefly comprised in the words, **EXTREME EARLINESS, EXCELLENCE OF QUALITY, CERTAINTY OF PRODUCE** in all seasons, and **VERY LATE KEEPING.**

The Distinctive Advantages of the Iona.

It is impossible to speak intelligibly of the full merits of the Iona, except to those who are conversant with the Delaware in its highest perfection, or with the best foreign kinds. The vine is essentially native in appearance, with the most enduring degree of native hardiness, but the fruit has all of the beauty and excellence that belong to the best foreign kinds.

It has been already stated, that in appearance it is scarcely distinguishable from the Grizzly Frontignan, one of the most beautiful of all the foreign kinds, and one of the best and most estimable for wine, and for the table.

The fruit has been, during many years of trial, carefully criticised and tested by a great number of persons who were fully conversant with the best foreign kinds, as grown in this country and in Europe; and in every instance, when thus examined away from the vine, it has been pronounced a foreign grape of very high quality, and particularly spirited and *winy*, with tender flesh. The word *flesh*, to denote a consistence yielding under the gentle pressure of the tongue, has heretofore had no meaning as applied to American grapes.

This *meaty* or *fleshy* structure, in its full perfection, is found in no *American* grape except the Iona. Although most abundant in juice, the whole interior is held in form by a delicate structure, which yields to the gentle pressure of the tongue uniformly to the center, all of it dissolving in delightful refreshment. This structure has important advantages besides that of making the whole contents of the berry perfect in excellence. Upon this the production of the

best raisins depends, and the superiority of those from the famous Muscat of Alexandria is in a great measure owing to this quality, in which that grape excels. It is of equal importance for late keeping. Although extremely delicate, it is permanent, while that at the center of the *Isabella*, although fibrous and cohesive as a ball of India-rubber, soon breaks down by the process of decomposition, and mingles with the part near the skin, that was sweet when the grapes were taken from the vines, destroying the spirit of the juice, rendering it flat and insipid, if not unpleasant.

Foreign grapes, when grown under glass in this country, acquire much greater size of bunch and berries in the hands of the skillful cultivator than belongs to them in open air, in the place of their nativity, but lose something of the vinous spirit and richness which constitute the peculiar excellence of the grape, in consequence of the somewhat restricted mobility of the atmosphere of the houses, which, in its full force of motion, with the accompanying heat and dryness of our summers, their tender leaves can not bear, but which in their greatest intensity only add vigor to the Iona, and increased spirit and richness to its fruit.

THE DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE IONA, AND ITS SUPERIORITY OVER EVERY OTHER NATIVE GRAPE, may be comprised in the following points:

1st. The large size of its bunches and berries, with just the desirable degree of compactness, and the form and transparency that render the foreign kinds so attractively beautiful.

2d. The exquisite *tenderness* of the *flesh*, uniform in texture from the circumference to the center, in which it is alone among American grapes.

3d. Purity of flavor; sweet, spicy, rich, spirited, and refreshing.

4th. The fruit adheres firmly to the bunch to the end of the longest season, and dries readily to excellent, spirited, *meaty* raisins.

5th. It is easily kept through winter, without losing its vinous spirit, or any disposition to decay.

6th. It ripens very early, (three weeks before *Isabella*,) with a degree of evenness, uniformity, and perfection that belongs to no other grape.

N. B.—It should be stated that these vines have only received ordinary vineyard culture in my hands; none of them having ever been specially treated for the production of show fruit. All of them have, at all times, grown in full, open exposure.

IONA, August 20, 1864.

The current season up to the present date, (August twentieth,) from its higher and pretty continuously sustained temperature, has been more favorable for the growth and ripening of grapes, and the production of excellence in the fruit, than any that has occurred since the year 1856; but its testimony is not less emphatic in affirmation of the rank that has been for the past seven years given in my Catalogues to the Delaware and Diana. Allen's Hybrid fully maintains the high eminence that was four years since in my publications confidently predicted for it, and for the garden especially it must now take its place as one of the five best, and decidedly the earliest and best white hardy grape in cultivation.

Delaware and Allen, as in former seasons, began to be good to eat earlier than any others that have been in general cultivation, and before the Concord had colored in the slightest degree. At the same time, (August fifteenth,) the Hartford Prolific was beginning to color slightly, but had lost none of its hardness or acidity; the Logan and Creveling not being changed the least in color or hardness. August twentieth, the Diana shows much change; the bunches clearing toward transparency, and many of the berries have become finely colored and sweet, but not yet without impurity in flavor. Some of the Concord berries are becoming tinged with crimson, but have not lost any of their hardness or acidity. Elseningburg, Union Village, Creveling, and Logan are coloring in about the same degree.

Four years since, I stated my confident belief that the Delaware would be constantly found, under equal circumstances, to be so far advanced in ripeness as to be much better to eat at any given time than any other grape on my list, not excepting the Hartford Prolific. Since that time very numerous trials have been made, and all within my knowledge have resulted in the confirmation of my opinion, which had not been hastily formed, but was the result of at least eight years of fair and extensive trial.

In speaking of the Delaware, I can only reiterate the statements of a long series of years, that among hardy vines, (with the exception of my own seedlings, Israella and Iona,) the Delaware is best, in all important points, for the table and for wine; being not behind the earliest in ripening, and greatly surpassing them all in the certainty of abundant crops, and in the excellence of its fruit for the table and for wine.

The extremely refined elegance of its foliage, and its unequalled habit of growth, irrelative

of its fruit, conspire to render this the most attractive of vines at present in cultivation. To appreciate the whole assemblage of its excellences requires an extended and intimate acquaintance with it in the garden and vineyard; and cultivators who have not that acquaintance will find it as difficult to comprehend the warmth and earnestness of the praise called forth by its habit, as those do to understand the terms in which its fruit and wine are spoken of, who have only had their perceptions of the flavor and refreshing enjoyment which the vine can furnish sparingly exercised upon the fruit and sirups of the very imperfect Isabellas, or of the more gross and foxy Concord and Hartford Prolific.

Last season, for the first time, Delaware grapes began to be known to considerable extent from their sale in market; and although the fruit was far below a fair average quality as that first offered must of necessity be, coming from young vines in the hands of the unskillful, it was still so good as to create a general surprise by its excellence. Numerous trials were made by bringing it into comparison with all of the fine foreign kinds, at extensive gatherings of those who were well acquainted with the best, and the voice was uniformly in favor of the Delaware, conceding to it that highest point of excellence, superiority over all others in *pure, rich, spirited, refreshing flavor*.

Those who had formerly decried the Delaware, because they were ignorant of its merits, and praised the Concord and other inferior kinds, despite of their very marked and positive defects, with very few and unfortunate exceptions, perceived and accepted the excellence of the Delaware, and became earnest advocates for its dissemination among the people. The most manly at once not merely retracted their errors, but actively sought to make reparation for the wrong influence which they had unintentionally exerted, by making thorough investigation of its characteristics and quality, and reporting the facts as ascertained, for the public benefit.

This, of course, could only result in more extended testimony to the excellence of the Delaware, sustained by the evidence of many thousands of vines which I had disseminated in every State of the Union. That number has this season become increased more than tenfold, with the increase in quality and earliness, irrespective of the character of the season, that belongs to advance in maturity by young vines, and particularly to those characterized by the spirited, vinous flavor.

I am more particular in setting forth the Dela-

ware clearly, because that is now the foundation upon which grape-culture, as an extended business throughout a great extent of the country, rests, both for the table and for wine, and especially for the latter, in which its excellence is so great as to place the Catawba far in the background. Any grape, to maintain a permanent place in cultivation, must at least approach the Delaware in goodness of quality, with some very important points of superiority to counterbalance and outweigh any deficiency in this most important feature, which will constantly increase in importance, as perceptive ability becomes more cultivated, which it is destined to be with greatly accelerated rapidity.

Inferior kinds are zealously advocated by the ignorant and interested, and rapidly disseminated; but tastes are also being rapidly disgusted with them on becoming acquainted with those which are really and unqualifiedly good, and their rejection has already extensively begun, with the manifestation of the proper feeling toward those who led them into the error.

In speaking of the four, I have not forgotten several of the highest excellence in flavor that are on my list, the full descriptions of which may be found in Description of Varieties, in Descriptive Catalogue.

And in my remarks concerning the Delaware, I have not forgotten the Diana, which is an important adjunct in making the list both for wine and for the table. For full explanation in regard to this, see also Descriptive Catalogue, where it will appear that, in my opinion, the Diana is destined to a permanent place among the best kinds in garden and vineyard; but not now as second in rank, with Delaware first, but with Iona first, for table at least, and probably equal in value for wine, and Israella ranking very high in all localities for its excellence and unequalled earliness, and surpassing all in value in the extreme northern limits of grape culture where that alone will ripen. It is not hazardous to predict that very soon Iona and Israella will sustain equally with the Delaware the interest of grape-culture. The Israella may be expected to make a rich wine, very distinct from the Delaware, Diana, Iona, and Catawba, that will be highly esteemed by many.

The Lincoln has not yet received the attention which will on full trial be accorded to it; but its merits are so much less striking than those of Iona and Israella, that its progress will be slow, while the general dissemination of the vine will be greatly accelerated.

Prices of Iona and Israella.

From the low prices at which these vines have been offered on their first introduction—so much less than has ever before been asked for new kinds—some have been led to infer that I do not place a high value upon them.

That is so far from being the case, that I consider these two, in the assemblage of qualities that constitute high excellence and value in grapes for general cultivation in garden and vineyard, and especially for table use, as superior to all others. This is clearly shown by the surpassing quality of the fruit, uniformly maintained in gardens and in open vineyard culture during the long and severe trial through which they have passed; and my opinion as to their merits is confirmed by the uniform voice of the vast number of good judges who have carefully observed their progress, and critically examined from year to year the quality of the fruit and the habits of the vines.

In saying this, I do not detract from the great excellence and value of the Delaware, which has not been over-praised and can not be over-estimated. These statements may seem paradoxical here, but will not appear so to those who read the full account of them all in the Descriptive Catalogue, with Mr. Mead's Critical Analysis and Parallel between Iona and Delaware.

From the first manifestation of the quality of the Iona, I had no difficulty in marking out to myself the proper course to pursue, in justice to myself and the public. The Israella came one year later, and the same course was equally applicable to that.

The qualities exhibited by the Iona at its first bearing were so different from those of any American grape, but so important, and what had been so long desired, yet scarcely hoped for, that my belief could not accept them as a permanent reality without the most thorough and decisive trial.

The excellence and surpassing beauty of the fruit, so strikingly like the Frontignan, strongly suggested the possibility that it would partake of the want of endurance in the open air that renders the cultivation of the foreign kinds impracticable in this country, although the Iona had, from the beginning, without any shelter, endured the most severe winters and trying summers, perfectly uninjured.

The outline of the plan was, to become fully assured of the habit and character of the vine, under ordinary culture, in different climates, as well as of the quality of the fruit, and then to produce strong wood on mature vines, from which

I could propagate good healthy plants, that might be safely recommended to purchasers, and to offer them at prices so low that all could obtain at once a sufficient number for a full family supply of the fruit. Thus, by offering good vines at the beginning, and making them easily obtainable by all at wholesale rates which afford but a fair living profit for their production, I should remove all inducement to "wait a year or two, until new propagators can furnish *cheap vines*," which always cause disappointment to purchasers and damage the reputation of the kind.

Good mature wood is necessary for the production of good plants, and this can not be had of *tolerable* quality until the end of the second year after planting the vines, and of best quality not until the fourth year.

This is a consideration of which purchasers are slow to comprehend the importance, although the discouraging proof of it is to be found wherever "*cheap*" vines have been tried long enough to give their proper result.

While it remains as easy for the unscrupulous to claim excellence for the bad as for the good, with *apparent* cheapness, some will be found ready to attempt to bring good results from vines that have been dwarfed and emasculated by being started first from diminutive infant wood, and further deteriorated by the *cheapening* process; but it is scarcely less feasible than to undertake to make a Farragut of a Commodore Nutt.

It has been well stated by Mr. Mead that the *best* vines are *always* the cheapest, and that a first-rate plant can not be produced for less than one dollar. (See his "Lecture on the Conditions of Success in Grape Culture," in the Descriptive Catalogue, which is worthy of the attention of every one about to plant vines.)

The Quality of Plants and their Cost.

The production of good plants requires much knowledge and careful attention, and the art of doing it can not be acquired except from long and painstaking experience. The difference in cost between plants grown to advertise for *sale* and those grown to make early-bearing, healthy, productive vines is not merely great, but several fold. Only a slight sketch of the different processes can be given here; but the following will afford some idea of the subject to the attentive reader.

To produce good, enduring, productive vines, *good wood* must be used, not taken from vines that have borne a heavy crop, but from such as

are able to do it, and have had the crop removed in its early stages, before taking any strength from the vine.

The cuttings (eyes) must be set in cleanly washed sand, in which no seeds of fungi or mildew find lodgment, and placed under proper conditions of moisture, heat, light, and ventilation.

At the proper stage of rooting, the plants must be removed from the sand to small pots, and furnished with soil of moderate fertility, and be placed in full light and free ventilation. Under proper management, the plants will soon be furnished with fine fibrous roots, in great quantity, and *large, thick, healthy leaves*.

As soon as the soil becomes fully occupied with the roots, the plants must be removed to pots a size larger, and furnished with differently prepared soil, with plenty of room, free ventilation, and full exposure to the sun; but moderated when required, so that no injury may befall the leaves, for upon their health and perfection the health of the plant depends.

When these become again filled with roots, another change and much more room for the leaves, as well as roots, is required. This, at short intervals, is to be repeated, until at least four changes have been made, and the plants tied up to stakes. The most skillful attention is required in furnishing the proper amount of water, and at the proper times.

The plants must by degrees become fully exposed to free, moving air, but at the same time be protected from fierce, blighting winds, that interchange with frequent calms at this season.

They are now ready to remove from the propagating-house to the hardening-house, which is prepared, and has all the advantages of open sky and all of the protection that may be required from fierce, drying winds, until they have passed another change of pots, and become fitted for the open ground. After being placed in the open ground, they must again be protected by glass, until fully established, and started anew in vigorous growth; for if the leaves become injured at this stage, the growth will not advance, and the plants will suffer in health, losing their microscopic fiber, which is indispensable to their full prosperity.

When sufficiently advanced, they must be again staked and carefully tied. If they have been carried through all of these preparatory stages with due care, the young plants will have acquired a degree of vigor and endurance equal to that of well-established bearing vines, enabling them to carry their leaves to the end of the sea-

son, and, in consequence, to fully mature their wood and roots. In this way No. 1 vines, from single eyes, in open ground, are produced.

To produce "Extras" and "Best Selection," more changes are required, and into larger pots, before going into the open ground; as large plants can be obtained at much less cost by lessening the number of changes, but they will have much less of the fibrous character at the center, upon which, in a great measure, their value depends; and the fewer changes the vines undergo before being put out, the less fiber and the greater proportion of large, long roots, which tend to the overgrowth of vines and not production of fruit, and the less valuable the plants.

The aim is to obtain close, compact growth, in soil of moderate fertility, for productiveness. Extended growth is easily obtained by withholding ventilation, increase of moisture, highly enriched soil, watering with liquid manures, etc.; but by these means the vines are rendered of little or no value.

The best vines of all are those grown in pots, through many changes, the entire season; but the cost of producing these is much greater. Vines in this way may be made to bear fruit the first season after planting, but it is not advisable. See the matter fully treated in Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogues.

The Methods of Producing "Cheap Vines."

These are short, and, with little change, reach the object proposed, which is simply the production of *living plants that may be transplanted and sold*, and does not aim to make them able to give the best results after planting the fruit.

In the propagating-houses they are set as closely together as possible to economize in room, for that is very expensive; and then if they are set in pots, from five to ten are placed in one that is much too small to afford accommodation to one first-rate plant, where the vines rest, but can not grow, to the end of the season, without changing.

Another cheap method is to set them very closely in beds, without tying and staking; thus effecting another saving on the improved process of ten in one pot, and avoiding the expense of staking and tying, as well as that of pots; affirming that the vines are better left lying on the ground.

The cost of wear and breakage of pots alone for the production of each *good* vine is much more than the price asked for the *cheap* ones.

Another method, cheaper still, is to transfer them immediately to the open ground, without

the intervention of potting. These methods have all been practiced during the past six years, and to some extent much longer. The effect has been to greatly depress the reputation of our best kinds; and if it had not been for the most sedulous and untiring efforts at the Iona establishment, by which hundreds of thousands of good vines have been sent all over the country, with the proper directions for their treatment, vine-culture in this country would have been still slumbering over the Isabella and Catawba, for Concord and Hartford Prolific have not in themselves enough of goodness to sustain life.

The Delaware has been very rapidly disseminated since I undertook its propagation, and is firmly sustained in the high position which it has gained by its merits, against the most inveterate opposition, and this sustaining power is the knowledge of its excellence as exhibited by the *good plants* that have been sent to all parts of the country, chiefly from Iona, and despite the adverse influence of badly produced plants from which its reputation has suffered and continues to suffer severely. The only drawback to its excellence is the difficulty of its propagation, which renders the production of good plants *cheaply*, an impracticability.

The inferior kinds are not sustained by knowledge of their excellence, nor does the knowledge of the true excellence of grapes favor their dissemination.

MANUAL OF THE VINE.

Catalogues Descriptive and Illustrated.

THESE together comprise the most thorough and complete treatise on the vine for garden and for vineyard, including a chapter on wine and wine-making, that is accessible to American readers. Every subject connected with its planting and management in garden or yards, and in vineyards, for table use, and for wine, is thoroughly treated, from my own extensive personal knowledge, as well as from extended observation carefully made during a long course of years, for the express purpose of making myself thoroughly acquainted with every point of interest in regard to the character and qualities of the different varieties, in every locality in which they are cultivated.

I may safely say that my own experiments with vines have been much more extensive, as well as more thoroughly conducted, than those of any other person in the country, and the results are carefully embodied in these publications.

The Illustrated has been through seven large editions, and thousands have treated their vines in gardens and vineyards according to its directions; and I have not yet learned of one who has followed them and failed of the full measure of success promised, while thousands have assured me of having obtained the most satisfactory results.

Many will suppose, from the names, Descriptive Catalogue and Illustrated Catalogue, that these publications are merely the advertising mediums for the sale of my wares; and such they were, in a great measure, at the beginning; but now they contain but very few pages on that subject, and those pages, with the exception of the price-lists and their explanation, are as important for giving a practical understanding of the vine as any other part.

In the year 1857, when I first began in earnest to disseminate the vine, the dissemination of the knowledge of its treatment was of almost equal importance, which I had previously undertaken in a measure by the very laborious task of letter-writing, accompanied by rude explanatory sketches.

To lessen the labor and improve the matter and manner, a pamphlet of sixteen very large pages, with some illustrations, was prepared, giving directions for the preparation of the ground and for planting, with directions for three years' proceeding in management, and one plan in full operation.

This was fitly named "Illustrated Catalogue," and was upon the advantageous plan often adopted by Europeans, of making their catalogues a compendium of instruction also. As this was enlarged from year to year to meet the wants and answer the numerous inquiries that were made, the former "Catalogue, with indications for cultivation and management of vines," became the present book in two parts, named Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogues.

As the steps toward the formation were so progressive, there was never the time that appeared to call for the change of name, and now, although the most comprehensive book on the subject, they still bear the name Catalogue.

The engravings are very numerous, and so good that a late maker of a book on the subject (A. S. Fuller) has made up a very large part of his illustrations from these, partly by copies and close imitations, and partly by the use of my plates, obtained without asking my permission, and without one word of acknowledgment, regardless of copy-right.

It was at first sent gratuitously, but after a time a small charge was made, but never amounting to nearly enough to pay the cost. I felt as much interest in the dissemination of the knowledge of the vine and its cultivation, as it now exists in its improved and excellent varieties, as I did in the sale of the plants; and in furtherance of that knowledge have expended thousands of dollars without hope of other reward than consciousness of having contributed, according to my best ability, to a very beneficent result in promoting the culture of good vines.

I still receive great numbers of letters, making inquiries and offering remuneration for answers, that are minutely given and clearly illustrated with plates in these publications. In the preparation of them, I have had in consideration not only the whole subject of grape culture, but all of the inquiries that have been made in thousands of letters during the past ten years, from every part of the country, and which I have either endeavored to anticipate or answer in the most plain and practical manner, illustrating, when necessary, with engravings, so as to introduce the inquirer to a full acquaintance with the vine, and a knowledge of its treatment. Tables of the contents of each are appended, as will be seen.

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I HAVE this season the very great happiness of offering to the public two of my own seedlings—the *Iona* and *Israella*—which, after six years of thorough trial in different localities, have uniformly exhibited great excellence, showing themselves, all things considered, to be greatly superior to any native kinds in cultivation.

The *Iona* in particular, for table use, will mark an era in American grape culture not less important than that so happily distinguished by the introduction of the Delaware, which has wrought an entire revolution in our ideas of the characteristics of a good native grape.

The former idea, as shown by the *Isabella*, and even by the *Catawba*, to some extent, under the most favorable circumstances, and when in the best condition, was that of a considerable amount of goodness always inseparable from some degree of badness, which made a very broad distinction between the best European kinds and those of our own country, greatly to the disparagement of the latter.

The present idea is that of unmingled goodness, with a degree of restorative, inspiring excellence that belongs to no other fruit. In the presence of the grape, we can not characterize the juice of the noble apple as "blood," which we may now do in speaking of the animating juice of the best of our own grapes.

The *Iona* is a large bunch, with large berries of a very peculiar wine-color, a little tinted with amethyst, and is translucent from the first setting of the fruit, like the best European kinds; the bunches are also "winged" like those, that is, shouldered on each side, instead of being branched, like the Delaware and our other native kinds. Its seeds are few and extremely small.

The flesh is of uniform melting consistence, quite to the center, and, unlike our ordinary natives, is as sweet, rich, and tender toward the center as toward the skin; in quality and appearance, it more nearly resembles the Grizzly Frontignan than any other grape. Like that most beautiful and esteemed Muscat variety, it is translucent, fleshy, and tender, but it is even more spirited and vinous, and the raisins are also spirited, rich, and of soft, meaty consistence. The fruit is not disposed to decay, and may be kept all winter on the shelves of the fruit-room, the berries continuing to adhere firmly to the bunch. In a dry room, freely ventilated, it readily dries to raisins, and is the only American grape that is unexceptionable for the purpose.

It is an early, profuse, and constant bearer,

never having failed to fully ripen its crop, and has never been affected with rot or any unhealthiness during its trial, even in the most unfavorable seasons for the grape that we have ever known. The third year from the seed (1857) it bore and thoroughly ripened many fine bunches.

The habit of the vine and the quality of the fruit are both so good that it would be difficult to say in what respect they could be altered for the better.

It ripens fully two weeks before the Isabella, hangs long upon the vine, and is not injured in its flavor or texture by severe frost.

Flowering late, it avoids danger from spring frosts. It has none of the offensive native muskiness, but a genuine, delightful Muscat flavor, and with its spirited richness, it may be inferred that it will take as high rank for wine as for the table, though it has not been thoroughly tested.

The Israella is a large black grape, ripening one week before the Iona, and is the earliest black grape of large size and excellent quality that is hardy.

Like the Iona, it adheres firmly to the bunch, is a late keeper, and dries easily to raisins, which are sweet and rich. It matures from without toward the center, and when fully ripe, has no acidity or toughness remaining, being exceedingly sweet, rich, and good throughout its entire substance. It is somewhat suggestive of a spirited green-gage plum by its peculiar luscious flavor. It is not deficient in vinous life, and is pronounced most excellent by all who have eaten it.

The vine has uniformly maintained its remarkable health and hardihood, and, during the five years of its fruiting, has been constant in its exceeding productiveness. It has never been injured by mildew, nor has the fruit suffered from "rot."

The Iona and Israella, at first fruiting, stood out from a great number of seedlings very prominently for excellence of flavor, character of flesh, and the hardy endurance and productiveness of the vines.

A few words in regard to the origin and history of these vines may here be added, to furnish suggestions to those who may desire to enrich our list with other excellent varieties. The years 1850-54 inclusive, were very favorable, by their heat and dryness, to the growth of the vine; in 1854, however, there was some thinning of the crop by the rot among the Isabellas and Catawbias, but scarcely a show of it among the Dianias, which had that season arrived at a good degree of maturity, and excited my surprise by the size, beauty, and excellence of the fruit.

This succession of remarkably favorable seasons had brought these three kinds to an unprecedented degree of goodness, and I thought the conditions most opportune for an effort at improvement by the production of seedlings, and to secure to it the requisite attention undertook it on a very large and expensive scale.

The Diana being then new, I planted all of the seeds that could be saved from the best berries of the perfect bunches, and many also of the Isabella and Catawba seeds, chosen from the best berries of the best bunches from the best vines.

I buried the seeds in compost in November, and sowed them in March following. The season was very early, warm, and long; the seedlings were consequently favored in making wood and roots of sufficient strength and ripeness to endure the winter. They were planted in ground that had been trenched two feet deep or more, and the roots of the best of them occupied the full depth of the worked ground, and without any protection, endured the severe freezing of the winter that followed without injury.

I transplanted five thousand of those which pleased me most by their hardiness, vigor, and nearness of joints, and good foliage.

The next season was particularly trying to the leaves, by its sharp alternations from cloud and fog to wind and fierce, bright sunshine. The leaves of many suffered, and these were rejected.

The Iona stood out very distinctly above them all, having produced two canes that appeared to be large enough for bearing, which were pruned for that purpose. The result more than realized the pretty high expectations that had been indulged, and a small stock was propagated from it by layering, which greatly exhausted the mother-plant. These were lost the following winter by fire, with houses, and a large stock of Delawares.

At four years old many of the others showed great excellence, by the production of fruit better than Isabella and Catawba, as well as earlier; but meanwhile the standard of excellence had greatly advanced, by the dissemination of the Delaware and Diana, so that qualities which would formerly have been valuable, had happily ceased to be so, by the advent of these.

Of those which bore fruit at four years old, one, now named Israella, very clearly stood far above all of the others in the assemblage of good qualities which constitute an excellent and valuable grape, although there were six besides of great excellence. Unless farther advance in the maturity of the vines shall exhibit an increase in valuable qualities, these will not come before the

public as articles of commerce. Our collection of grapes is not to be made more valuable by adding to it such as are *nearly* as good as the best, without any important quality in which they excel; but additions, to be valuable must possess all the good qualities in an eminent degree, with some valuable characteristics super-added.

What Kinds to plant.

The subjoined extract from Mr. P. B. Mead's work on the Vine, is, by his permission, taken in advance of publication. It discusses important points in such a clear, discriminating manner, that none can fail to apprehend his full meaning, although the subject is difficult to treat intelligibly, because accuracy and precision of analysis have generally received but little attention in describing the characteristics of fruits, although indispensable to the understanding of their relative merits. His work will meet the requirements of all who desire a trustworthy book, made from his own personal knowledge and experience during a life conversant with the subject.

Grapes for the Family, or the Dessert.

IN making a selection of grapes for family use, I shall exclude all that do not combine the chief points of excellence that have thus far been attained in the native grape. The list will therefore be small. *Good* grapes are at present a luxury enjoyed by the few; but the time is not far distant when they will be so plenty as to be within the means of every man, woman, and child. The grape, however, must be regarded as an article of diet, giving health to the body and vigor to the mind, and not as a sugar-plum or confection, to be rolled as a sweet morsel under the tongue, simply to gratify the palate. Without here entering into a physiological disquisition, it may be said, briefly, that a grape for family use, in addition to its other excellences, must be *tender* and *digestible*, or free from the woody fiber and toughness of flesh, or unripeness, which characterize the grape in its wild condition. It may have large size, a degree of sweetness, and outward beauty; yet if it have not also a thoroughly tender, melting, or digestible flesh, it must be rejected from the list of grapes for family use. Though it have size, and sweetness, and beauty, and have not tenderness, it is nothing. The presence of a hard or leathery mass of flesh is a sign of immaturity, and unfits a grape for human food. Tenderness, or digestibility, is indispensable; and I would not admit to the family

any grape that does not possess it. If, in addition to this essential quality, it also possesses size, sweetness, delicacy, spiciness, or an agreeable perfume or flavor, it combines all that is desirable to constitute it a grape for the table. It is then not only healthful, refreshing, and invigorating to mind and body, but very pleasant to the palate. The most refined connoisseur could ask for nothing more.

But it may be asked whether any of our native grapes possess these high qualifications. In my opinion, some of them do in quite an eminent degree; as, for example, the *Delaware* and *Iona*, and others in a less degree. The day has gone by when American grapes may be sneered at, even by Europeans; indeed, the day is dawning when comparisons may be instituted between foreign and native grapes without detriment to some of the latter. Crossing the two has been resorted to, and in one instance at least with a very satisfactory result; and there are many who suppose that our best grapes will thus be produced; but my own conviction is, that our best and most permanent grapes will come from "in and in breeding" of our native race. I think the evidence of this is plainly before us.

Now let us see what grapes we have that are really good for the table. First, we have the *Delaware*, which some years ago I accepted as a standard of excellence, and put forth as an educator of the public taste, an office which it has performed faithfully and well wherever it has been disseminated. Almost the only objection that has been made to the *Delaware* is its small size; but size, in the grape, is a point that is subordinate to many others. This objection, however, will be fully met in the next grape mentioned. But the *Delaware* is not so small as many seem to suppose. As the vines acquire age, the bunches and berries increase in size, and it will not be long before bunches weighing from a half to three quarters of a pound will be quite common. In all other respects, the *Delaware* is every thing that could be wished; indeed, it may be doubted, in view of its concentrated goodness, whether it would be desirable to have it of large size. It is hardy, early, juicy, tender, and spicy, and productive to a remarkable degree. It is eminently a vinous grape of peculiar delicacy, quite free from roughness or astringency, and may be eaten with the utmost freedom without cloying the appetite. It is an excellent grape for the table.

My second example of a good table grape is the *Iona*, which I place right by the side of the

Delaware. These two grapes resemble each other so closely in some respects, that they may be regarded as counterparts of each other. We may say with about equal truth, that the Delaware is a concentrated Iona, or that the Iona is an enlarged Delaware. Thus we may also say that they are the complement of each other. It would seem, in the case of the Iona, as if Nature had taken the same amount and degree of goodness that we find in the Delaware, and inclosed it in a larger envelope; made it, indeed, more fleshy or *meaty*, and to that extent more nutritious. In color, too, they are much alike; in fact, marked resemblances seem to invite comparisons; and yet the two grapes are entirely distinct from each other in their character, as well as in form and size. No one could for a moment confound them. It is when *eating* the Iona that I think of the Delaware, and it is when eating the Delaware that I think of the Iona, so closely have their very similar characteristics of quality become associated in my mind. I should be sorry to be deprived of either. For the moment, and in moderate quantity, I should find most enjoyment in the rich and concentrated Delaware, but there is more cheerfulness and life in the spirited and meaty Iona, consequently in full quantity, that has my preference. Both are sweet, rich, vinous, and spicy, but the Delaware is the most concentrated. Both are tender and melting, but the Delaware is more freely juicy, with just a little fiber around the seed. The Iona is more fleshy or meaty, but without fiber, and equally tender throughout, melting entirely away, and leaving the seed free. The Iona has the rich, vinous juice and spicy flavor of the Delaware, but in a more diffused form; and it has also more life or spirit. The Iona ripens from the center outwardly, and therefore grows better the longer it hangs; but, notwithstanding, it is sweet some time before it is ripe. The berries adhere with great tenacity, which circumstance, together with its sugary richness and meaty flesh, fits it for making the best of raisins, in which respect it is scarcely inferior to the best of Malagas. To those familiar with pears, I may say that the Delaware is among grapes what the Seckel is among pears, an exquisite refinement of them all; while the Iona may be likened to a perfect White Doyenné, not so extremely rich and concentrated as the Seckel, but with an equally pure, spicy, and vinous flavor. The bunch and berry of the Iona are much larger than the Delaware, striped and colored very much like the Grizzly Frontignan, and covered with a thick

pearl-colored bloom. The berries are quite translucent, the seed being distinctly seen, especially before the bloom has set. It is hardy, of good habit, ripens about the time of the Delaware, is productive, handsome, and in all respects an excellent grape for the table. It is a seedling of the Diana. Placing the Iona and Delaware side by side, we may well call them *par nobile fratrem*. They are preëminently the best of American grapes. They are equally *pure* for the table; and I think I can foresee that the rich, concentrated juice of the Delaware may be equalled by the Iona as a grape for wine, while its superior size and spirit will give it the preëminence for the table, and the *tenacity* with which its berries *adhere* together, remaining fresh and unshrivelled, and its late-keeping qualities, give it peculiar advantages for the market.

The *Diana*, also, we must place among good table grapes; but, as we have seen, the mother is excelled by one of her own children. While the excellence of the Diana is generally admitted, it has sometimes been objected to it, that it has a peculiar and unpleasant flavor. This, however, is chiefly seen in young and badly treated vines, or before the fruit is ripe. When the vine has acquired age, the goodness of the fruit becomes fully developed. This peculiar flavor, however, is always traceable in bunches which have been picked before they are ripe, or where the vine has been allowed to overbear, which it has a great tendency to do. When fully ripe it disappears. It has also been objected to the Diana that it ripens unevenly. To some extent this is so while the vines are young; but with age and good treatment this objection also disappears. The Diana will not ripen over as wide an extent of country as the Iona and Delaware; but where it will mature it is worthy of a place among the most select list of grapes for the table. It is sugary, rich, and vinous, but has a rather thick skin, becoming more tender, however, the longer it is left on the vine, where it will hang till it dries into a good raisin.

Next on the list of table grapes I place *Allen's Hybrid*, a grape of comparatively recent introduction, but now sufficiently tested to be assigned to its proper place on the list. It is supposed to be a cross between the Chasselas and the Isabella. The vine is more liable to mildew than those just named. It may, however, be planted wherever suitable protection can be afforded, and especially in the garden. The bunch and berry are of good size, the color being amber green when ripe; the flesh is slightly crisp or crack-

ling, moderately juicy, sugary rich, and vinous, with a slight muscat flavor, resembling the Chasselas de Fontainebleau. It is a good bearer, and ripens about as early as the Delaware. It will be much esteemed.

The above will afford the chief supply for the table; but a few may be added for earliness and for the sake of variety.

For an early grape, the best I have had an opportunity of testing is the *Israella*. It ripens even before the Hartford Prolific, and is very much superior to it. Unlike the Hartford, it adheres firmly to the bunch, and will hang till frost. The color is a dark purple. The bunch and berry are large, and the flesh tender, juicy, and very sweet. It is a good grower, hardy, and productive. It is the best early table grape that I am acquainted with, and ranks higher than the Isabella. The *Creveling* ripens at about the time or a little later than the Hartford, but is a better grape. It resembles the Isabella in bunch, berry, color, and general characteristics, but is perhaps a little more spirited. It has the fault of not setting well, and the bunches are consequently often loose. There are two or three new candidates for earliness, but I have had no opportunity of testing them. Among these is the Adirondac; but I know too little of it yet to assign it its proper place.

In the garden I would plant a few vines of the *Anna*. Wherever it will ripen, it will be greatly liked. It should have good treatment, and not be allowed to overbear. The bunch and berry are large. The flesh is always a little tough at the center, but it is rich and vinous, with a decided muscat flavor. The berry is amber colored when ripe. It will repay a little extra trouble.

Among the small berries I would name the *Elsingburg* and the *Lincoln*, both being juicy, vinous, and spicy. A few vines of each will be found to make an agreeable variety. For the chief supply for the table, however, I would rely upon the Delaware and Iona. There are some southern grapes which might be added to the list for the table; but they will not ripen here, and I therefore omit them in the present list, which now consists mostly of grapes that may be grown over a wide extent of country, and possess those qualities which should be most esteemed, and which constitute the grape the best of fruits.

I have prepared this list as a guide for the inexperienced, who can not be otherwise than bewildered by the long list of names presented by our catalogues, the descriptions in which are

such that the novice would be fully warranted in concluding that each particular grape was the best, and that the next best had not yet been introduced to the public. The result is not only a good deal of disappointment and dissatisfaction, but a serious loss of time and money. The list that I have prepared would therefore seem to be very much needed. I can confidently recommend the grapes named in it, to the extent indicated. I will in conclusion briefly recapitulate: Plant chiefly Delaware and Iona. Next, Diana and Allen's Hybrid. For earliness, if only one kind, the *Israella*; if two, add the *Creveling* or the *Adirondac*, as the latter may prove to be quite early. Next in quantity, the *Elsingburg*, which is a very good table grape, though the berry is small; next *Lincoln*; and then say a couple of the *Anna* where it will ripen, for the sake of its high flavor *when ripe*.

Questions often asked.

"*What kinds to plant?*" One of the principal objects of the *Descriptive Catalogue* is to exhibit the true character in living light of all the different kinds that are brought in question, so that any one who desires may be fully qualified to judge of their merits and value for any purpose, and for any latitude or locality.

"*What quality of plants to buy for garden, and what for vineyard planting?*"

Another of the principal objects of the *Descriptive Catalogue* is to show this from calculations based upon long and extensive trial made by myself during the past fifteen years for that purpose. Very extended observation in all parts of the country leads to the same conclusion.

Mr. Mead's lecture treats this matter in a more lucid and satisfactory manner than any thing of the kind that is before the public.

"*What kinds shall we plant to meet the want for the table when the taste shall have been generally educated, and will then be of a higher standard than that represented by the Delaware?*"

There is not any grape known that exceeds the Delaware in exceedingly rich, pure, refined flavor; and any grape that can be called good by the side of that, may be safely considered as permanently placed in high rank. See this thoroughly treated in "Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue."

"Is the Iona better than the Delaware for any and all purposes? Is it as productive? Is it as beautiful? Is its habit as well adapted for vineyard training? Is it the most profitable grape to plant for market?" Emphatically, *yes*.

Iona, December 4, 1864.

The current season, in adding one more year of extensive experience to the Iona and Israella vines, has added breadth and clearness to the demonstration already made of their great superiority in value over all other kinds, and has also made more clearly apparent that ours is to become distinctively a country of the vine in its highest excellence, both in its produce for the table and for wine, through our own native kinds. The Delaware is now so widely known, and by its surpassing excellence is so earnestly and practically acknowledged by the eager demand for the plants, which is far beyond the supply, that special effort is no longer called for to bring its merits more extensively to the knowledge of the people. But to prevent the disappointments that sometimes occur from defective treatment, there is still need of the more general acceptance of the well-ascertained principle: "*That although the conditions of success are simple and easily furnished, they are still indispensable.*"

The following letter is illustrative and characteristic:

NEW-YORK, August 28, 1864.

DEAR DOCTOR: I am very much obliged to you for the Iona grapes, my own being gone, except some I want to exhibit at our show. They came opportunely, for I had promised a number of "anxious" friends a taste of the Iona. I have been a good deal amused, on showing the Iona to Mr. McCormick, and other experienced growers of the foreign grape, to hear them call it, at first sight, either the Red Frontignan or the Red Chasselas; and it has required much tasting to convince them that it was a native grape, and sometimes no little persuasion, because they seemed loth to admit that so good a thing could have had a native origin.

But so it is; and I am fully persuaded that the native grape will yet be acknowledged to be as "pure and refined" as the foreign. I can clearly see the beginning of a new "dispensation." Yours sincerely, PETER B. MEAD.

Europeans have heretofore said, and with pointed truth, when our best kinds were represented by the Isabella and Catawba: "You have no grapes that deserve the name."

Americans, after having traveled extensively in the vine regions of Europe, uniformly speak of the loss which they feel at being deprived of good grapes. A friend, on his return from two years' sojourn in the vine countries, said to me: "In every thing which goes to make up a happy country, we equal or greatly surpass that of the East, with one important exception. We have no grapes which can be called *good fruit*, and I have had a constant longing for those of Europe,

since leaving them." It was the first of September. I sent him some Iona and Delaware grapes. One week after, he said: "These two kinds surpass even those of Europe, and my desire in this respect for myself and for the country is more than satisfied." This may be taken as an illustration of what generally obtains. We can now offer the Iona, and challenge competition for an open-air table-grape; and I can say to Mr. Allen, *sub rosa*, and not as chairman of wines, but in his individual capacity, that there is a new sensation for him, which will enlarge and delight his heart. The Delaware has become known, and its surpassing merits for wine are not disputed. There are two others whose products will be even more valuable in some important respects, and these are Iona and Diana. Of the latter, the remarkably fine animating flavor is clearly indicative of the generous cheer which it may be expected to afford, but the evidence is as strong as it can be without extensive actual trial that the Iona will in this respect surpass the Diana.

Who will attempt to estimate the benefit and enjoyment and wealth that will inure to the country from the dissemination of these vines? What an amount of health and comfort, as well as of exquisite delight, will a few hundreds of pounds of these grapes, to use freely for six months of the year, bring to any family!

Vines at Wholesale Rates to Clubs.

A proposition for the formation of clubs, by which all can obtain vines at wholesale prices, with other advantages, will be sent for a stamp. The propositions may accompany the price-list, or any of the catalogues, without cost of stamp; and I would invite the attention of every purchaser to them for their great advantages.

I would also ask the attention of dealers and all interested in the sale of vines, to the very great inducements offered for the purchase of vines in very large quantities—that is, in numbers greater than one and two thousand.

In quality of vines and cheapness of price, it is believed that those now offered can not be equaled.

Vines in Large Pots.

I have a select number of Iona and Israella vines grown in very large pots, for those who can understand their value.

Vines in Open Borders.

More than four fifths of my entire stock have been grown with the utmost care, in finely prepared open borders, and I shall be glad to have their roots compared with any that have ever been grown. I ask the most critical examination of my entire stock, and invite all interested in the purchase or planting of vines, to visit the Island.

Incident.

THE following dialogue actually took place recently, between a Vineyardist of the progressive class, and a much distinguished amateur cultivator of foreign and native grapes, and may serve as an example of what is constantly occurring.

Amateur.—I don't like Dr. Grant; he's a humbug, and a great blower. I'm determined to speak against him at every opportunity, and do all I can to expose him.

Vineyardist.—Are you acquainted with Dr. Grant?

Amateur.—No! Never saw him or his grapes, and don't want to. The description that he gives of the Iona Grape, as he calls it, is an imposition. Such a grape never was, and never can be. I say he's a great impostor, and has no right to put forth such stuff to deceive the people. If I had my way, he'd be stopped.

Vineyardist.—I have been conversant with Dr. Grant's doings for a long time, and for five years have had intimate personal knowledge of his seedlings, both in his hands on the Island, and in many different places where they have grown and fruited, and I know his statements do not exceed the truth. In the next place, I must differ with you as to his right to publish an account of them. I would even say he owes it to the country, as well as to himself. He has spent many years of anxious care, and many thousands of dollars, in their production, and it is his right, when offering them to the public, after thorough and extensive trial, to give full and accurate descriptions of them. More than that, it is a matter of general interest greater than can be computed, and a well-informed public demands it of him. Here are some of the Iona Grapes—try them.

Amateur, (eats one.)—That is good. (*Eats two more.*) These are excellent. I could not have believed it.

Vineyardist.—Eat more; your palate needs a little acquaintance with them to perceive all of their points of excellence. Eat them slowly, and carefully observe the flavor and effect.

Amateur, (after eating half a bunch.) I am astonished! So sweet and rich and uniform to the center! No particle of foxiness or toughness, and so wine-like and spirited. There is no grape in the world like it. I have eaten the best grapes that I could find, wherever grown, and have cultivated them for many years myself, and never yet found any that gave so much enjoyment as these, and I declare to you—

Vineyardist.—Stop, my neighbor; you are becoming a greater "blower" than Dr. Grant.

Amateur.—I stand fully convicted by my own principles. I must acknowledge my imprudence

and wrong in judging without knowledge, but will promise to do all that I can, most heartily, to make amends for the past, by showing the people how good a thing is offered to them. One grape shall be given to each of my neighbors, (so far as the remainder of this bunch will go,) to show them the cause of my conversion. The fruit will carry conviction wherever it may go.

PHILADELPHIA, September 5, 1865.

DR. C. W. GRANT:

DEAR SIR: The bunches of Iona grapes which I took from your Island three days since, have done more to convince people here of the excellence of your grapes, than could be accomplished by the talking and writing of years. Their beauty and excellence when seen and tasted, are irresistible. I must entreat you to send a few more bunches, and promise you to make the best use of them. Even one bunch more will aid me greatly, and extend the reputation of the Iona among those who can appreciate excellence, but who require demonstration to be convinced, after having been humbugged with such kinds as Creveling, Concord, Hartford Prolific, etc., which have been highly praised, and of course have disappointed them.

Yours truly,

The above is a specimen of great numbers of letters that are received daily. Many thousands of bunches are called for, and many applicants are necessarily very reluctantly denied. The vines on which they are grown are all young, four years old at most—some only one and two; and all have been trained and grown for the production of wood for propagation, rather than fruit.

After supplying the numerous exhibitions, scarcely more than a thousand bunches will remain. Some will be disappointed by receiving small bunches, or imperfect fruit. We entreat such to be assured of our earnest desire to do all that is possible for the gratification of their wishes. Next season we shall have many two-year old vines in bearing, and shall be able to furnish many thousands of handsome bunches from vines properly trained for the purpose.

The Forcing of the Israella, as charged by Mr. Byram—The time of its ripening—Its quality—Its value for Market surpassing that of any other Grape, in the opinion of Mr. Downing—Opinion of the American Agriculturist, after full investigation.

THE above points have all been so thoroughly investigated and discussed, that no doubt concerning them can remain in any fair mind that has given any attention to the subject.

The following letter from Mr. Downing, while bearing directly upon these points with convincing weight, gives testimony of not less importance in regard to the hardness of both the Iona and Israella.

It should be borne in mind that both the Iona and Israella vines of which Mr. Downing speaks are still too young to give their best results, both in earliness and quality, while the Delawares and Hartford Prolifics are of quite mature age. In two seasons more, the Iona and Israella will gain at least one week more each in the relative period of ripening, compared with the Delaware and Hartford Prolific.

The Iona vine of Mr. G. W. Leonard, of Newburgh, which was also sent out for testing before the general dissemination, shows the same characteristics, with a more marked difference in its favor. I have not here room for the full account of it which has been kindly furnished by Mr. Clark, a very distinguished grape-grower in the vicinity; but will extract the principal points: "The present crop (September, 1865) is very large, and evenly distributed over the vine; the leaves are in a fine, fresh, healthy condition, and the fruit ripened evenly more than a week before the Delawares near it. Some of the bunches are nearly eight inches long. It is truly a splendid sight."

NEWBURGH, Sept. 26, 1865.

DR. C. W. GRANT: To your letter asking me how the Iona compares this year with the Delaware, as to time of ripening, endurance of foliage, etc., I answer as follows:

The two past seasons, the Iona, being the first years of fruiting with me, ripened a little later than the Delaware; but this season a week earlier, which was owing, probably, to the more mature state of the Iona vines, as well as to the foliage of the Delaware being more affected with mildew.

The Israella ripened as early as the Hartford Prolific, or before it, beginning to color about one week earlier; but being also superior in flavor, with handsomer and more compact bunch, adhering well, and keeping a long time after ripening, it will be more valuable for market, and, from my present experience, I think it will prove the *best* early variety for this purpose I have yet seen. I do not, however, give a *decided* opinion of these grapes until further trial.

Both Iona and Israella have so far proved hardy and vigorous, and the foliage has been much less injured by mildew than Delaware, Concord, and most other sorts. There has been more mildew on the leaves this year than usual, and to some extent on the fruit of a few varieties.

CHARLES DOWNING.

TUBBY HOOK, Sept. 27, 1865.

DR. C. W. GRANT: DEAR SIR: In answer to your letter asking me, "What has been the condition of my grape-vines this summer, and particularly how the Iona and Israella have withstood the mildew which has been so general and severe the present season?" I will say, the Delaware, my great favorite, which has never suffered before, has mildewed so much that about one third of my crop will not ripen well from loss of the leaves. Catawbas are entirely gone from rot, though loss of leaves was not so great as in many others. Concord very much injured in the fruit—not nearly half a crop. Allen's Hybrid has done pretty well, giving most excellent fruit, and Rebecca has also ripened some bunches finely, and also the Creveling, although the leaves mildewed. I have not yet fruited the Israella, but the vines have grown very vigorously, are healthy, and have not been more affected than those of the Hartford Prolific, which is one of those that have suffered least. I expect next season to get from them (the Israellas) such magnificent bunches as those exhibited by Mr. Downing at the fair, (three bunches weighing respectively a pound and a quarter, a pound and two ounces, and fifteen ounces.)

Now, last, but not least, the Iona has gone through this most trying season triumphantly, yielding very little, if at all, more than the Hartford Prolific; and at the present time I have a trellis seventy-five feet long by eight feet high covered with plenty of *large* and *full, ripe* bunches, which, to my taste, are the best flavored native grapes that I have eaten. This fully meets my requirement for a perfect grape. Allow me to congratulate you upon the success of the Iona. I shall plant nothing else in the ground that I am now preparing—certainly not until we get something far better than is now before the public.

The advance of the time of ripening with the advance of the age and maturity of the Iona vines is a fact that should be noted. Each year has made a difference of more than a week, or perhaps two weeks, with mine.

Yours, very truly, C. MARIÉ.

(I publish Mr. Marié's letter entire, to the exclusion of pointed extracts from many others from widely different quarters and latitudes, because of its special value in coming from a most intelligent foreigner who is thoroughly conversant with both foreign and native grapes, and a cultivator of the refined foreign kinds. This testimony is unanimous from all who know what excellence and enjoyment to look for in really good grapes.)

Extract from Mr. A. Thomson, of Delaware, Ohio, to whom we are indebted for the discovery and introduction of the Delaware grape, and whose excellent judgment is undisputed:

DR. C. W. GRANT:

Of the Iona it is superfluous to speak, as no person, so far as my knowledge extends, questions its great excellence, and certainly no competent judge of grapes, after having had an opportunity to see and taste it. I confess great surprise at seeing any one attempt to assign the Israella to the rank of inferior grapes as regards quality. I first saw it at the Cleveland Exhibition, September, 1864, and the specimen that came to me for examination was one of the handsomest clusters of black grapes that I ever saw, and to my taste it was the best black grape that I had ever eaten.

I recently saw them on exhibition at Columbus, where they were making warm friends of all who saw them. The Iona especially carried all before it by its beauty and excellence of flavor, captivating every body with any just pretension to judgment as to quality of fruit. To have produced and presented to the country two such magnificent grapes may well satisfy the highest aspirations of pomological ambition.

Sincerely yours, A. THOMSON.

IONA, September 25, 1865.

THE most gratifying reports come to us from all quarters in regard to the performance of the Iona and Israella the present season, which has been the most trying to grapes ever known.

The vines which were distributed in many different States and localities for testing the vines in all respects before general dissemination, have maintained their superiority in earliness and certainty of ripening, and in the excellence of the fruit, or rather their excellence in quality and earliness, as well as in endurance, has become more clearly manifest on more extended trial. Even the vines on the second year have, in numerous instances, produced fruit of astonishing excellence and beauty.

These vines have been disseminated already extensively in all of the Middle and Northern States, and in some of the Southern, and from every district reports of their performances have been received. I shall extract from these reports, and also from some of the leading journals, as largely as space at command will permit. But of many hundreds, the reports are nearly of the same import. But there are a few exceptions, the causes of which have generally been ascertained and found to be such as we expected to produce corresponding results, all

proving clearly that under conditions in which any vines will thrive, the Iona and Israella have everywhere shown themselves among the most hardy, and in quality, above all, *best*.

From "NOTES ON GRAPES," by *American Agriculturist*:

Israella.—We have said but little about this variety heretofore, because we have not had a fair opportunity of judging of it. In a note in August "Basket" we mentioned that the vine was a good bearer, and we have now before us fruit, which being from young vines, is not as large as we saw it last year. It ripens as early as or before the Hartford, but is vastly superior to that in quality. It is tender and very sweet, two important elements of popularity. The berries cling to the stem with remarkable tenacity, a quality which adds to its value as a market fruit.

Iona.—Last year we gave it as our opinion that this was the best American grape yet introduced. On September sixth, we tested specimens which fully confirmed us in this belief. Some may prefer the Delaware for its intense sweetness, but to our taste, the high vinous flavor of the Iona, combined with sufficient sweetness, put it in advance even of the Delaware. The great beauty of the Iona is not equaled by any native variety, and perhaps not surpassed by any foreign one. Both bunch and berry are large, and covered with a fine bloom.

From Solon Robinson, in *New-York Tribune*:

Mr. Bushnell is also making a show and advertising Dr. Grant's Ionas and Israellas, which are unmistakably good varieties—one the earliest and the other best of the whole list.

From Mr. Meeker, in *New-York Tribune*, reporting from the State Fair of Illinois:

"Great interest centered around the Iona and Israella grapes of Dr. Grant. I could not see that the Israella is much better than the Hartford Prolific. I confess great disappointment. But as for the Iona, I must set it up. It is larger than the Delaware, and—let no one raise his hands—I think it as good. There were those who called it better. But it must be considered that these men had no gray hairs in their head. At any rate, there was great surprise on finding the Iona so very good. Let us not be fast. Mr. Stewart, of Alton, says that with him the leaf blights badly, and so it does with me. The Israella is much more thrifty. But I make no account of it in comparison. The Concord is far ahead; nor does it ripen earlier. This is honest. I do not see how the Israella can be claimed earliest, when it was shown with the others, and even was not extra ripe."

That Mr. Meeker is "honest," we know, for

does he not say he is? But the evidence of his ability needs strengthening, which we will attempt to do by the following note. As permission has not been asked to use the writer's name, I offer it without, as a fair representative of a small class of tastes:

MR. C. W. GRANT: DEAR SIR: Accept my thanks for the specimens of your new grapes, Iona and Israella. *They would be very nice, and as good as Concord, only they don't thrill the lips so delightfully, and haven't any of their charming fragrance.*

But Mr. Meeker is in a very hopeful way. A little later, writing again of the Iona, he says: "Of the Iona I hear nothing but praise. (He does not yet indorse its hardness.) Every time I taste it the better I like it. It is as sparkling and as gay as a Spanish girl dancing to the lord of her castanets." It should be noted that small plants of any kind, forced by excessive enrichment, lose their thin, papery leaves very early.

From Rev. J. B. Britton:

CHILLICOTHE, OHIO, August 30, 1865.

DR. C. W. GRANT: DEAR SIR: I have the Iona (on its second year) bearing a few splendid bunches now fully ripe.

The vine is strong and healthy, while the Catawba by its side is *miserable*. It is a demonstrative advertisement, constantly speaking most forcibly for you, as many call to see it.

The Israella has also borne fruit fully ripe the tenth of August, and the vine has made a wonderful growth. I have also the strongest proof of the vigor and hardness of the Iona, as well as of the Israella.

Am forming a club, and shall want many of both kinds of the vines.

Yours,

J. B. BRITTON.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, Sept. 4, 1865.

C. W. GRANT: DEAR SIR: The vines received from you have done well, though the season has been very unfavorable from wet. I have not lost one. My brother, who has carried out to the letter your instructions in the preparation of the soil and in planting, has made a grand success—some of his Ionas and Israellas making growth of six, eight, twelve, and fifteen feet, and growing yet, though "stopped back." The Ionas and Israellas indicate a hardness and endurance that is very encouraging, while the Catawbas are in a woeful plight, fruit and leaves being half gone.

In this region, a northern exposure often appears to be the most favorable.

Yours, truly,

ISAAC LEONARD.

From Waterloo, about lat. forty-three degrees:

WATERLOO, Aug. 29, 1865.

DR. GRANT: DEAR SIR: I have been at a neighbor's to-day, to see his Iona and Israella vines. They are beautiful, and the Israellas al-

most full color, especially the lower clusters, and some of the Ionas are almost ripe, and so as to taste quite grape-like. The Iona and Israella are both sound, while *all* of the other numerous kinds in his yard are affected with rot, etc. Your seedlings are indeed a pleasant sight to behold this trying season.

Yours,

R. P. KENDIG.

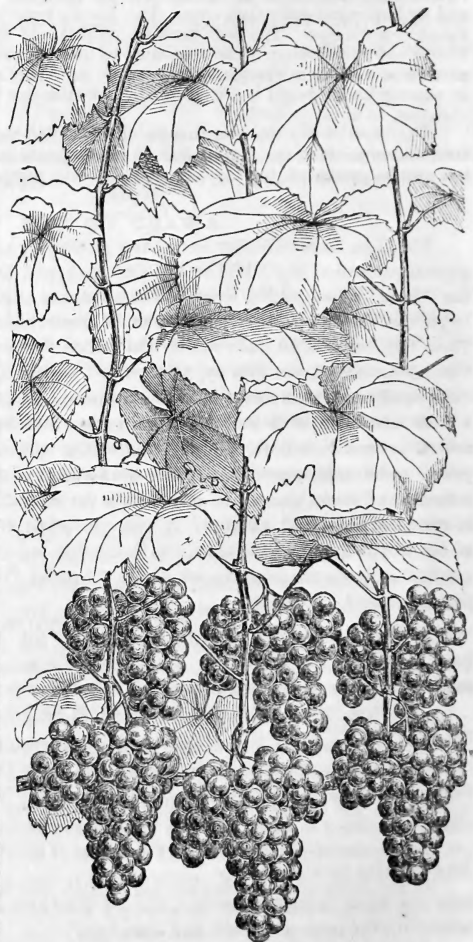
TROY, DAVIS CO., IOWA, Aug. 27, 1865.

DR. C. W. GRANT: DEAR SIR: I received the lot of vines ordered from you in due time, and delivered them in perfect order to the members of the club. The vines were superior to any ever received before in this quarter of the country, and have given universal satisfaction.

I think now that the superiority of your vines has been so fully demonstrated that there will be little difficulty in having your vines take the place of the comparatively worthless ones that have been sold in this district heretofore.

Yours, respectfully,

J. M. GARRETT.



The plate is an accurate representation of a section of one fourth part of an Iona vine on its third season from a single eye. It is drawn to a scale of two inches to the foot. One bunch was taken from each cane soon after the setting of the fruit. The character of the bunches and the productive habit of the vine are well represented.

THE GREELEY PRIZES.

For the purpose of obtaining new varieties of our three leading Fruits, or of suitably designating one from each that may be possessed of all of the excellences that belong to the kind in an eminent decree, and above all others, Mr. Greeley offered three premiums of one hundred dollars each, one for grapes, one for apples, and one for pears. The following is an extract from the offer for Grapes:

The requirement, as will be seen by the extract below, is exceedingly high, being nothing less than for a grape of quality equal to the best European kinds, with a vine equalling in hardness of leaf and constitution the most enduring of our native kinds, thus combining all of the good qualities of both, and avoiding the defects of each.

It will be seen that in the opinion of a Committee, as well qualified to judge as could have been selected, the *Iona* fully meets the requirements, and I believe all good judges who have had an opportunity to become well informed on the subject fully and heartily concur in their decision.

IMPROVED VARIETIES OF FRUITS.

So much has been well done within the last few years in American fruit-growing, that it seems feasible to do still more, or at least to realize more extensively and rapidly the benefit of past improvements.

I. Perhaps the most signal advance has been made in the production of GRAPES. There are probably twenty-fold more grapes grown for sale in this country to-day than there were thirty years ago, while the improvement in current varieties, in culture and in quality, has been equally decided. Still, we are growing far too many inferior grapes, while our established favorites are too generally deficient in one or more respects; they require too long a season, or they have some notable defect as a table-fruit. So much labor has been wasted on varieties of foreign origin that it is not deemed advisable to incite to further effort in that direction. There is not to-day in the United States a good table grape of foreign origin that can safely be grown in open air north of the Potomac and the Ohio. But it is plausibly claimed that several substantially new or little known varieties of domestic origin are of high quality, fulfilling all the requisites of choice table-fruit. It is time that these claims were tested and passed upon by disinterested and capable judges. As a humble contribution toward this end, I hereby offer a premium of one hundred dollars for the best plate of Native Grapes, weighing not less than six pounds, of any variety known to the growers or propagators of this country. I require that the Grapes competing for this premium shall ripen earlier than the *Isabella*, *Catawba*, or *Diana*, none of which is considered well adapted to a season no longer and no hotter and drier than ours. The berries must be of at least good medium size and not liable to fall from the stem when ripe. The flesh must be melting and tender quite to the center. The flavor must be pure, rich, vinous and exhilarating. The vine must be healthy, productive, of good habit of growth for training in yards and gardens as well as in vineyards, with leaves as hardy and well adapted to our climate as those of the *Delaware*. In short, what is sought is a vine which embodies the best qualities of the most approved American and foreign varieties, so far as possible.

I propose to pay this premium on the award of the Fruit Department of the American Institute, and invite competition for it at the Annual Fair of the Institute soon to open; but if a thoroughly satisfactory Grape should not now be presented, the Institute will of course postpone the award till the proper claimant shall have appeared.

(Signed)

HORACE GREELEY.

AWARD OF THE "GREELEY PRIZE."

The Hon. Horace Greeley having very generously offered a prize of one hundred dollars for a grape adapted to general cultivation in the Middle and Eastern States, the Committee, after due consideration, have awarded it to the "*Iona*," raised by Dr. Grant. The additional requirements were, in general terms, that the grape should be larger than the *Delaware*, early, tender to the center, high-flavored, sweet, spirited, and good for market and the table. These requirements are fully met by the *Iona*. So far as *trial* is concerned, the *Iona* is not a new grape, and the Committee failed to see that any thing would be gained by postponing the award, some of them being already quite familiar with the new grapes now before the public. More grapes as good, or even better, are wanted, and a prize equally valuable is in store for such. The *Iona*, during the past four or five years, has been grown in several parts of New-York, in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New-Jersey, etc., and in all has proved to be early, a good and healthy grower, and of the best quality. Some of your Committee have seen it in a number of these places, and can confirm the favorable reports that have been made. Your chairman has had it some six years, and examined it under a variety of circumstances, and he fully concurs in the high opinion of his associates. In conclusion, the Committee are of opinion that the *Iona* is the only grape now before the public that meets the requirements of the "Greeley Prize," and they accordingly award it. All of which respectfully submitted. [A copy.]

A FEW ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS.

The leading new sort, and which commands the universal admiration of all who have tested it, is the *Iona*. I repeat what I have before said, that it is the best American grape ever produced. It is saying a great deal to say that it is superior to the *Delaware*, but it is.—*Tribune's Report of New-York State Fair.*

"It is the best grape in America—at least on the Atlantic side."—*Solon Robinson's Report of New-England Agricultural Fair.*

Report of Committee on Grapes, at the great Cleveland Exhibition of Grapes and Wines:

"The premium was unanimously awarded to the *Delaware*. The contest between the *Delaware* and *Iona* was close, there being no diversity of opinion as to the excellent quality of the *Iona*, but the specimens before the Committee were not in first-rate condition in consequence of having been too long picked. The Committee most heartily commend the *Iona* as a very valuable acquisition, and the best grape of recent introduction."

The commendation of it by the Committee of the American Pomological Congress, was equally emphatic as to its surpassing excellence.

Of the numerous premiums and testimonials that have been awarded to its excellence, I need not speak here. One who has attended five of the principal exhibitions writes: "Of all these exhibitions, the *Iona* and *Isabella* were the chief point of interest and attraction."

All of these testimonials are very gratifying to every lover of good grapes, and particularly so to the originator; but not more so than the earnest and enthusiastic commendations that are accorded to it, as if with one voice, by all who have had an opportunity to learn its goodness and value.

GRAPE VINES:

Iona and Israella, with all other Valuable Hardy Kinds.

The Iona Propagating Establishment,

Which was the first ever instituted for the production of hardy vines, has heretofore been very large—greatly surpassing in extent and appliances any others of the kind that have sprung up in imitation of it; but it has not been able to supply the demand for plants. The past year, the stock of the most desirable kinds was all ordered in the early part of the season, and many applicants were greatly disappointed by not being able to obtain as many as they wished of the most desirable plants.

For the purpose of producing the excellent new varieties of the best possible quality in sufficient number to satisfy the increasing demand, the means of production have this season been very greatly enlarged, and no improvement has been omitted which my knowledge and experience have suggested that will tend to facilitate the propagation of a greatly increased supply of plants that will produce the best results, as a hardy vigor and early bearing, in Garden and Vineyard, for table use and for wine.

The character of the Delaware for excellence and value is now so well established, that all good judges of grapes have accepted it as a standard of comparison, for which it is most admirably fitted, by its fine habit of growth, hardiness of vine, certainty and abundance of crop, and, above all, by the surpassing quality of its fruit.

Superiority of the Iona to the Delaware.

The important points in which the Delaware is surpassed by the new seedlings, IONA and ISRAELLA, and which have ranked them as the best grapes in cultivation, are also well ascertained and generally admitted; and I have spared no care or cost this season to obtain a stock of plants that will increase the well-earned reputation of these kinds, as well as that of the Iona Establishment.

The Vines at present give promise of surpassing those of any former season, and I do not hesitate to offer them under the assurance of unequalled quality.

Important Advantage of Vines propagated from the original Stock prepared for the Purpose.

It is of great importance for the hardy and enduring vigor of Vines, and for early bearing and continued productiveness, that the plants should not only be propagated in the best manner, but from the best wood from mature stocks. In this respect, as well as in other essential points, I may claim a great advantage for my present stock of IONA and ISRAELLA plants, which have been produced with the greatest care from wood grown for that special purpose, and such as no other can command.

Special Attention called to the Merits of Iona and Israella, in the Habit of the Vines and in the Quality of the Fruit.

I am happy to invite special attention to these new kinds, (IONA and ISRAELLA,) which this season show even a greater superiority over all the other kinds than heretofore, in the certainty and abundance of their produce.

While other kinds that have been unduly and injudiciously praised, through ignorance or otherwise, have fallen back in reputation toward their proper station, these have advanced in the front rank, which they had already firmly attained, and the IONA may safely be said to have no competitor in quality and value.

Importance of some Knowledge of the Subject that is best acquired by personal inspection.

Invitation of all interested to visit Iona.

There is much of importance pertaining to vines and their management that is better and more clearly learned by inspection than by the fullest account, and in consequence I invite all who are interested in the subject to call at Iona Island, and examine both the young plants and the bearing vines. Peekskill, the station for Iona, is less than one hour and three quarters from New-York, and only about three hours from Albany, and not less than twelve trains pass each way daily.

My own boats are generally at the station to meet passengers by the morning express trains, to convey them to the Island. In addition to these, Mr. JAMES TEN EYCK, one of the best of boatmen, has established a regular line of boats for the conveyance of passengers to and from the Island, meeting all of the principal trains during the day. He has provided for the comfortable conveyance of passengers in any weather at established charges, which are very moderate.

My own Publications give the Results of long and extensive Practice, and recommend only what I have found to be advantageous.

For the purpose of meeting the wants of the times in regard to the knowledge of the vine and its management, I have issued several publications which are the result of many years' extended practice and careful observation.

They are named and sent as follows:

"OUR NATIVE GRAPES, with an Account of our Four Best Kinds," with price-lists, constituting a pamphlet of twenty-four pages. Sent for two-cent stamp.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE,	10 cents.
ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.	25 cents.
MANUAL OF THE VINE, (consisting of the above two bound together in paper,)	50 cents.

The first-named pamphlet is filled with such matter as Inquirers wish to find at the beginning, with full accounts of the origin, qualities, and characteristics of the New Seedlings, IONA and ISRAELLA. The others, though named Catalogues, constitute a thorough and comprehensive treatise on the Vine, drawn from long and active practice.

The Descriptive Catalogue, a large pamphlet of thirty-two pages, describes accurately all the native vines that are worthy of attention, exhibits their relative importance and value. It states the conditions of success in grape culture in garden and vineyard, for table and for wine, with some account of "real wine," and wine-making. It contains more than fifty engravings, showing many of the best plans of training in garden and vineyard. The Illustrated Catalogue is designed to be a thorough practical treatise on the vine, showing all that pertains to its management, from the preparation of the ground to the gathering of the fruit. It contains more than eighty engravings, chiefly drawn from actual vines under my own management.

Besides these, and of much importance, is the proposition for the formation of Clubs. This shows the best and cheapest method of obtaining vines, and is that by which my immense stocks have been chiefly sold the past two years, with general high satisfaction. These propositions are worthy of the attention of dealers and all others. Clergymen, Editors, and Post-masters are favorably situated for making these advantages available.

The premiums for the formation of Clubs are not only very liberal, but enable persons, without cost of money, to obtain vines of special quality that cannot be procured in any other way. Address,

C. W. GRANT,

Iona, near Peekskill, Westchester County, N. Y.

P. S.—My stock of transplanted vines two years old is worthy of special and early attention.